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March 29, 2019

Reverend Terence M. Keehan  
Holy Family Parish  
2515 West Palatine Road  
Inverness, IL 60067

Dear Father Keehan,

With your letter of March 22, 2019, you followed up our recent meeting with a number of questions, and I hope to address them as fully as possible.

1. You may have seen that rules for Vatican City State have been published as of today and serve as a template for bishops. In addition, there will be a handbook which will help give direction to bishops' conferences on how to deal with sexual abuse cases. That document, as well as the one released today, will also be an invitation for all bishops' conferences to revise their norms in accordance with these standards.
2. As to a procedure for holding bishops accountable for their behavior, as well as their handling of cases, the plan is for each bishops' conference to refer to an upcoming document being released by the Holy See that will offer a direction for crafting national norms. The USCCB is presently involved in discussions on this matter and we will most likely vote on a document this June.
3. The taskforce members will most likely be overseen by the Institute at the Gregorian University which has held a number of seminars and programs for training individuals on child abuse. It is anticipated that these members will need to have the expertise of psychology, law, and theology, as well as pastoral skills. Those particular job descriptions are currently being prepared with the assistance of professionals in the area of child care.
4. The taskforce will have the goal of serving underresourced countries and episcopal conferences to craft norms. Therefore, there is no need for a taskforce for the Archdiocese of Chicago since we have norms in place as well as a review board that advises me on updating our implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, as well as our safe environment program.



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5. The responsibility of the taskforce will be to assist underresourced dioceses and nations to put together norms that are in compliance with the directives of the Holy See.
6. They are not necessarily an oversight committee, although that is not outside of their purview. Their initial responsibility will be to assist dioceses and nations that are underresourced. These taskforces will be assembled in a way that reflects the needs of various cultures and language groups.
7. As to why initial names were added to our list of those credibly accused, I provide you with the attached statement that has already explained that issue.
8. We continue to share information as we receive requests for clarification. We believe that we have been forthcoming and transparent in communicating to the public the status of the situation and the programs that we have in place. The listening sessions that I and the other bishops have conducted have been a good opportunity for that kind of communication to be interactive.
9. We are aware of other credible studies on the causes of child sex abuse. Most notably, we have in the United States the two John Jay studies as well as the one undertaken by the Royal Commission in Australia.

Many thanks for your questions. I hope this satisfies the inquiries you have made on behalf of parishioners.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Cardinal" followed by a stylized flourish.

Archbishop of Chicago

-enclosure-

# **Statement of the Archdiocese of Chicago on the List of Accused Priests Released Today by Anderson & Associates**

March 20, 2019

Today Anderson & Associates released the names of clerics and laypeople they say have been accused of the sexual abuse of minors and have served in one or more of the six Illinois dioceses. The Archdiocese of Chicago reports all allegations we receive to the civil authorities. In addition to the priests listed on the archdiocese's website, we have identified 22 priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago on Anderson & Associates' list.

The archdiocese has reported 20 of these clerics to the civil authorities; in one of the remaining two cases, the archdiocese first received notice when the cleric was arrested, and in the other it was an allegation of misconduct with an adult, not a minor. This chart details the circumstances surrounding these 22 allegations and disposition of those cases.

Priests with substantiated allegations are listed on the archdiocese's website.

The Archdiocese of Chicago does not "police itself." It reports all allegations to the civil authorities, regardless of the date of the alleged abuse, whether the priest is a diocesan priest or religious order priest, and whether the priest is alive or dead.

When an allegation against an archdiocesan cleric is made and before any investigation begins, the archdiocesan Office of Assistance Ministry promptly reaches out to the person making the allegation and offers therapy at archdiocesan expense from a licensed therapist of the person's choosing. The archdiocese withdraws the accused priest from ministry pending investigation of the allegation and publicly announces this action.

After the civil authorities have completed their investigation, the archdiocese conducts its investigation.

The Independent Review Board, which considers the results of such investigations, was established in 1993. The majority of its members are laypeople. The Independent Review Board is the primary adviser to the archbishop on issues of risk to children and fitness for ministry.

Anderson & Associates conflates people who have been accused, but may be innocent, with those who have substantiated allegations against them, referring to all as perpetrators. Their list includes:

- a priest whose allegations were investigated by the public authorities and were determined to be unfounded. The Archdiocese's Independent Review Board also investigated and determined that the allegations were not substantiated. The priest was then returned to ministry.
- two priests whose cases are under investigation; their cases were reported to the authorities and they have been withdrawn from ministry, pending the outcome of the investigation.
- a seminarian (who was a transitional deacon) who was never ordained a priest.
- a priest who was accused of misconduct with an adult, not a minor.

Many of the names listed by Anderson & Associates are religious order priests. We provide the following information to help clarify their governance:

Dioceses and religious orders are separately governed entities in the Roman Catholic Church. Bishops govern dioceses; religious superiors govern religious orders. The bishop selects, trains, and supervises diocesan priests. The religious orders select, train and supervise their priests. The diocesan and religious order priests often do similar work, but each group is responsible to its own chain of authority (Canon 586). Disagreements between a bishop and a religious superior are referred to the Holy See for resolution.

A bishop and a religious superior work cooperatively such as when a bishop grants faculties (a license) for a religious priest to work in a diocesan institution, such as a parish (Canon 678). Nevertheless, the religious order priest is still under the authority of his religious superior. Similarly, a bishop may revoke a religious order priest's faculties (a license) to work in the diocese. In that eventuality, the supervision and management of the order priests also remains the responsibility of his religious superior. In brief, a diocesan priest is the responsibility of the diocese and a religious priest is the responsibility of the religious order.

If the Archdiocese of Chicago receives an allegation that a religious priest has engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor, the archdiocese reports it to the civil authorities, publicly withdraws the priest's faculties to work in the archdiocese, and refers the matter to his religious superior.

**Religious superiors have the same obligation and responsibility as bishops to adhere to the terms set forth in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.**