



September 29, 2022

**SNAP, the Survivors Network of those
Abused by Priests**

PO Box 16376
Chicago, IL 60616

Archdiocese of San Francisco

1 Peter Yorke Way
San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Archbishop Cordileone,

We are writing to you, once again, regarding the need for a list of accused abusers from the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Through our own research, we have compiled a list of known and publicly accused men who spent time in your Archdiocese. We have decided to publish this list because it appears that you are unwilling to take this action yourself. While our list clearly does not include information from your "secret archives," it is a good start that we think will support survivors and inform public policy makers.

So far, SNAP has identified 312 perpetrators associated with the San Francisco Archdiocese. More than 70% of those men worked in the current Archdiocesan geography of San Mateo, Marin, and San Francisco Counties. Our commentary generally focuses on those 229 clerics who worked in those three counties. The others worked for the Archdiocese when it encompassed more counties, but, as far as we can tell, those men never had assignments in the current three county region.

Within the current territory of the Archdiocese, we have identified at least 117 accused priests who worked – or work – in San Francisco's 90 parishes in a total of at least 290 assignments. Many of those assignments lasted six or more years and would have exposed each priest to hundreds of children. No generation as far back as 1916 avoided exposure to abusers.

We show that at least 68 Archdiocesan priests worked in high schools and colleges. Teachers and school administrators have unique access to children, maturing teens, and vulnerable adults in day-long, concentrated forums where power is greatly mismatched and parental supervision generally is nonexistent. One of the accused priests associated with USF is Fr. Stephen Sauer, SJ. He was arrested in 2021 and charged with drugging men and then assaulting and photographing them. Prior to his arrest, he was at USF from 2013 to 2016.

We have also found that at least 43 accused priests who either lived in or came to the Archdiocese without an assignment or with a vague reference to "education" or "sabbatical." To us, this is a red flag that could mean they were moving from a place of scandal to a place of anonymity. Fr. Wilputte Alanson Sherwood is such an example. He fled an investigation in Arizona and surfaced in the Castro at a church where he was arrested after several years on the lam. Since any priest in the Archdiocese could wear their collars, any of those 43 could have used their faculties or the perception of their priestly legitimacy to work as supply priests or in some other fashion to gain access to children or to target adults.



We have also identified several lay employees accused of abuse, either while working for the Archdiocese or elsewhere. While these men may not be clergy, they still may have endangered both Catholic children and the public, and should be included on the list.

Additionally, some clerics had more than one role. For example, before he was transferred to the Santa Rosa diocese, Fr. Austin Peter Keegan worked for a short time at St. Ignatius high school, and for a longer time in parishes of the Archdiocese. Fr. Keegan was eventually arrested. Another example is Fr. Martin Greenlaw. He worked in the chancery in fundraising roles, as a parish priest, and as a seminary dean. He was just recently named as an abuser, although earlier in his life he was arrested for embezzling money. He lived until 2018, was ordained in 1968, and was never defrocked. Fr. Greenlaw had nearly a half century during which he could have harmed children.

In our analysis of durations and migration, we placed these 229 in two categories -- "parish" and "non-parish" -- and we examined the duration of each cohort. We found that on average, "parish" priests worked in the Archdiocese for nearly 17 years; a young person's entire childhood.

"Non-parish" durations, which generally excluded any parish work but included high schools, chancery positions, and priests with no assignments, averaged 5.5 years. Obviously, many men in this category were always on their way to someplace else, which again to us is a red flag. San Francisco hosted nearly 100 of these clergy in transitory roles, most for a couple of years or less.

Bishop Edward Scharffenberger, who heads the Albany Diocese in New York, wrote the following in his March 29, 2022, pastoral letter in response to the release of a deposition given by his predecessor, Bishop Howard Hubbard. Bishop Hubbard covered up for accused clergy, lied in an op-ed about that cover-up, and has been accused himself of abusing half a dozen children:

"While the truth is often hard to bear, it might help us to remember that families where there has been abuse and betrayal **cannot** heal if the truth remains hidden. Families, like individuals, are 'as sick as their secrets.' We know from Luke 12:2 that 'there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed and hidden that will not be known.'"

The current Albany Bishop has it right when he says families cannot heal if the truth remains hidden. We think that releasing a San Francisco list, including all the names in your secret files, would benefit all families, all survivors and the public.

The importance of an accurate list for public safety cannot be overstated. According to Associated Press research, over 40% of accused priests and former priests are alive, and hence are still dangerous. For example, Fr. Frank Ivey's record shows that he abused at St. Boniface in San Francisco in the 1980's but was not revealed as an abuser until 2020. Research into his movements indicate he was assigned all over the west, and for a short time he was even back in San Francisco, where he was "a priest in good standing." Had Fr. Ivey been arrested in the 1980's when he first was reported to the Church, countless children might have been spared harm.



On average, it takes until age 52 for most survivors to find the strength to report. This means that many victims from the 1980s are just now speaking out. Delayed disclosure also means that it is still too early to know the extent of abuse in the 1990s and 2000s. Our mapping shows that 103 accused perpetrators had assignments in San Francisco that ended after 1981, which is the crest this year for the typical report. This means it is likely that survivors of abuse within your Archdiocese will be coming forward for years to come, even if no one else ever abuses in your Archdiocese again. Fr. Lawrence T. Fares, for example, was accused as far back as 1970 in Detroit. He worked at St. Peter's parish in Pacifica from 2018 to at least 2021. We might not hear about any assaults at St. Peter's until 2061.

More names are certainly coming. Our list includes about 21 new names from the current civil window. Delayed disclosure suggests more names will be revealed in the coming decades. There is much to do to prepare the ground for these yet unknown survivors, and these yet unknown perpetrators.

We look forward to your reply,

Zach Hiner

Executive Director, SNAP

517-974-9009

zhiner@snapnetwork.org

Shaun Dougherty

President, SNAP

sdougherty@snapnetwork.org

Dan McNevin

Treasurer and Bay Area Leader, SNAP

dmcnevin@aol.com

Melanie Sakoda

Survivor Support Coordinator and Bay Area Leader, SNAP

msakoda@snapnetwork.org

Mike McDonnell

Communications Manager, SNAP

mmcdonnell@snapnetwork.org