



March 4, 2019

SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests
PO Box 56539
Saint Louis MO, 63156

Honorable Nancy O'Malley
Alameda County District Attorney's Office
1225 Fallon Street, Suite 900
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. O'Malley:

The Oakland Diocesan newspaper recently ran an article about SNAP's rebuttal to the list of accused abusers in its diocese. At the end of the piece was the following news:

The Diocese of Oakland reported Rev. Alexander Castillo as a missing person to the Oakland Police Department on Feb. 23. Father Castillo has been on administrative leave since Jan. 30, as the diocese investigates an allegation of sexual misconduct against a minor, which was reported to police.

<http://www.catholicvoiceoakland.org/2019/03-04/frontpage5.htm?fbclid=IwAR3PmzBtUsFTHzQ0lqc7aJYgo0YJZDYuZNC5Dy2PuXN6fjkG5uN0qdNXZso>

SNAP believes it is important that your office now report its findings regarding the time lapse between when the Diocese received its first report of Fr. Castillo's alleged abuse of a minor male, and when the Diocese contacted law enforcement with the accusations. Were crimes committed by the Diocese in delaying this mandatory report? Was evidence suppressed or destroyed in the interim? Who is at fault for the delay in reporting? Citizens deserve a full view into this issue.

http://www.snapnetwork.org/snap_alameda_county_investigation_feb19

Moreover, because Fr. Castillo has apparently fled the country, we ask that you work with the Oakland Police Department, the office of the State Attorney General and the federal government's Department of Justice to do the following:

- 1) Issue a warrant in whatever form is most appropriate to find and bring this fugitive back to the United States, and



- 2) Ensure that the Oakland Diocese and its officials preserve all records related to this and other sex crimes, including any evidence of collusion in Fr. Castillo's flight.

In 2006, Santa Rosa Bishop Daniel Walsh accepted diversion into a counseling program in lieu of facing misdemeanor charges for failing to file a mandatory report after a priest in his Diocese, Francisco Xavier Ochoa, admitted to sexual misconduct with a minor. Bishop Walsh waited three days before reporting the incident. During that time, the priest fled to Mexico and was never brought back to face justice. Fr. Ochoa had ministered to Latino Catholics and was wanted on 10 felony child sex abuse counts.

http://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2011/05_06/2011_06_30_Espinoza_BishopWalsh.htm
<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/2129093-181/santa-rosa-bishop-says-keeping>
<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/2301084-181/fugitive-sonoma-ex-priest-reported-dead>

We fear, just like in the Santa Rosa case, Fr. Castillo may have targeted vulnerable Hispanic minors in Oakland and Contra Costa County. His work within the community, and his position as secretary to Bishop Michael C. Barber, gave him the perfect cover to target these children.

<https://cal-catholic.com/550-attend-meeting-of-hispanic-faithful-in-oakland-diocese/>

Finally, we note that you have worked closely with Bishop Michael C. Barber and the Oakland Diocese in the past.

http://www.alcoda.org/newsroom/2015/dec/partnership_safe_houses_victims_of_trafficking

While we are not suggesting that your office has done anything improper, we believe that all apparent conflicts should be revealed so that the public can be assured of complete and unbiased law enforcement actions.

In 2017 your office declined to file charges against Fr. Van Dinh who was accused of raping a seminarian. The Livermore Police Department's recommendation was that Fr. Dinh face felony charges of forced oral copulation and forced sodomy. Last week, the seminarian filed a lawsuit.

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/Meth-Pipe-Sex-Toys-Found-in-Room-of-Priest-Accused-of-Raping-Seminarian-at-Livermore-Church--506413101.html>



In 1982, a priest in the Oakland Diocese by the name of Monsignor Vincent Ignatius Breen was investigated by the Fremont police on charges of sexually abusing eight girls. The Diocese, led at the time by Bishop John Cummins, and the Alameda County District Attorney reportedly made a deal that no criminal charges would be filed in the priest if he retired, relocated and sought counseling. Fr. Breen may have molested more than 100 children.

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2005/05/09/ultimate-confession-of-late-pastors-sins/>
http://www.bishop-accountability.org/news3/2005_05_19_Avila_LocalChurch_Vincent_Breen_20.htm

Despite recent and past history, we believe that law enforcement is on the side of abuse survivors. There are likely other victims of Fr. Castillo and Fr. Dinh who may come forward if encouraged by your office. The only way society can be assured of a proper, unbiased outcome in either of these cases is if your office uses the authority and powers of law enforcement to examine and publish the facts around these alleged crimes.

We are counting on you to do the right thing.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Sakoda".

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CC: CA Attorney General Xavier Becerra