

Madeleine Sophie Barat
Foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart

An early 19th Century Frenchwoman, Madeleine Sophie Barat championed the need for the education of women. This truly remarkable woman was born in the province of Burgundy and grew up surrounded by affection and security. She was not yet seventeen when 1794 ushered in the Reign of Terror. Though not imprisoned herself, she suffered with her compatriots who were in hiding or facing the guillotine. It was her deep faith and rich spiritual life that carried her through those days.

Today, the Society of the Sacred Heart educates women in some 35 countries. Her followers remain faithful to her inspiration. Like her, they remain open to new situations, making her vision their own – that people become ever more aware of truth, of love, of freedom and of responsibility. Besides their involvement in traditional forms of education at all levels, many are involved in adult education and other activities for human development including the promotion of justice.

Madeleine Sophie Barat died in 1865 and in 1925 was canonized by Pope Pius XI.

CONVENTS OF THE SACRED HEART
NATIONAL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATIONS

Belgium	Italy
Argentina	Japan
Australia	Kenya and Uganda
Austria	Korea
Brazil	Malta
Canada	Mexico
Chad	New Zealand
Chile	Peru
Columbia	Poland
Cuba	Puerto Rico
Egypt	Spain North
England and Wales	Spain South
France	Taiwan
Germany	The Philippines
Holland	U.S.A.
Hungary	Venezuela
India	Zaire
Ireland and Scotland	

March 28, 1997

Rome
23 December, 1996

Mary Cecelia Harrison
#1509 - 1450 Chestnut Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V6J 3K3
Canada

Dear Mary Cecelia,

Recently it was brought to my attention that you, an alumna of the Sacred Heart, have initiated an essay contest in Vancouver at the University of British Columbia on the topic: "The Creative and Responsible Use of Freedom."

I want to congratulate you and to assure you of my support to encourage the exploration of freedom as a matter of education, to seek its depth and respond to it. I agree also that such an understanding is a matter of justice. Too often we have used this gift for our own self-interest, and few people, especially decision-makers, seem to have any interest in or understanding of freedom. Mega-projects proceed which damage the ecological system and force people out of work.

I encourage and support you in your desire to involve the local alumnae associations in similar essay projects at the university level. The publication of the best essays in book form by the United Nations would, indeed, highlight the importance of the potential of this gift of freedom in the formation of a vital society.

I pray that God may bless you and bring to fruition this worthwhile project.

With affectionate good wishes,

Patricia G. de Quevedo
Patricia García de Quevedo, RSCJ
Superior General

Casa Generalizia
Societa' Del Sacro Cuore
Via Tarquinio Vipera, 15
00152 Roma (Italia)

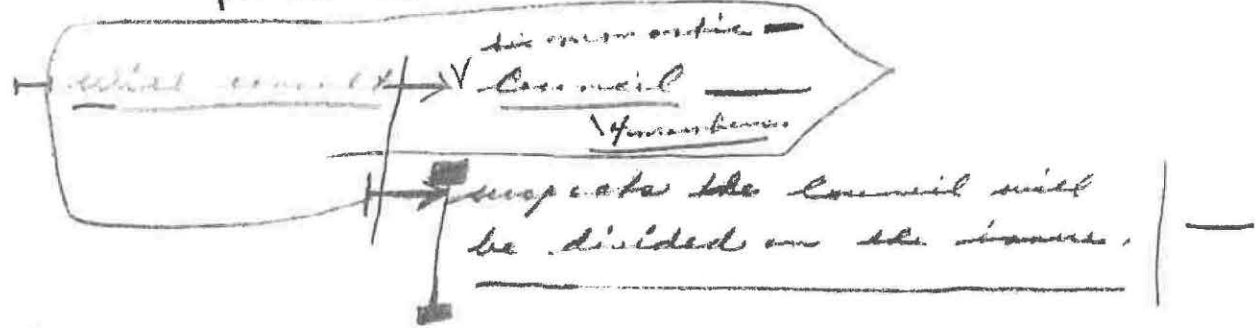
- pro. - pro. worked on | why above that | signs for
- but decided | to stay away
- the decision | of the | committee

only | allegations | of | past | governors

- Problem | of | the | University | is | the | same

- files | are | being | kept | by | the | University
- explained | how | matter | arose
- committee | concluded | that | if | the | committee | wanted | to | make | any | allegations | the | committee | will | not

- Went | over | prepared | from | statement
- suggested | some | changes
- students | will | be | opposed | to | this



What alternatives do we have?

Office of the Deputy
Prime Minister and of the
Minister of Canadian Heritage



Cabinet de la vice-première
ministre et de la ministre
du Patrimoine canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M6

JAN - 7 1997

Ms. Mary Cecelia Harrison
1509 - 1450 Chestnut Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6J 3K3

Dear Ms. Harrison:

On behalf of the Honourable Sheila Copps, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Canadian Heritage, thank you for your letter of August 14, 1996, regarding "The Responsible Use of Freedom" essay contest of the University of British Columbia. The Secretary of State (Multiculturalism) (Status of Women) has also brought this initiative to the attention of the Minister and I am providing her with a copy of this reply for her information.

The Minister appreciates your making her aware of the essay contest that you have established to encourage Canadian students to reflect on the fundamental values that define our society. There are no programs within the Department of Canadian Heritage, however, that can provide support for this initiative. I encourage you, nonetheless, to continue your efforts to stimulate debate on the meaning of a responsible citizen in a free society.

I regret that my response could not be more favourable. Please accept our best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "JBoutet".

Jean Boutet
Policy Advisor

c.c.: The Honourable Hedy Fry, P.C., M.P.

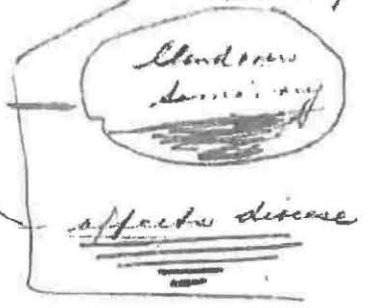
Canada

Constitution - Review 70

- Assessment - for benefit of the
- No teaching -
- No teaching of self -

not good
 + ...
 but ...
 part of ...

evolve / creditability of / Church



- not fair for the to be punished

the Church - to be punished
 by not doing all that
 can be done to reverse the creditability
of the Church

Review

- Assessment - no teaching
 + professional help as needed

- systemic review of
process and staff-student relationships

- 1 - Withdrawn from teaching
- 2 - Assessment
- 3 - prof. help as needed

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 determined by the ...)

In Abbot - 13/97

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- Letter of ... - H. ... student ... - in ... already ordained (Kevin ...)

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- Still students support ...

- Appropriate to say Abbot ...

- Statement from ...

- We draft for then we can ...

Confidential

Statement to Abbot Maurus regarding Fr. Placidus' sexual conduct.

I was Rector of both the Major and Minor Seminary during the incidents referred to in Fr. Placidus' trial. Near the end of the 1983-84 school year when I was speaking to one of the seminarians about his vocation plans I learned he had had homosexual contact with one of the priests. The young man--he was 19--did not tell me who the priest was. When I reported the incident to the Father Placidus, the Vice-Rector, he answered at once that the person in question was himself. Both men made these disclosures to me within a few days of the event.

I spoke to Father Placidus again in more detail today. He told me that it was the only genital homosexual contact he has ever had. He said it was a case of masturbation in his office. I think he would be prepared to swear that it was the only instance of genital touching on his part. His truthfulness in admitting the event first during the police investigation and then at the trial is impressive in view of the consequences he must have foreseen. In his verdict the judge said he believed Father Placidus but not the complainants. And from my perception of his initial admission to me, I would say that if he were a pedophile he would not have admitted his involvement when I did nothing more than report to him what the student had told me. That spontaneous and contrite acknowledgment made a deep impression on me.

In the report I sent, November 4, 1995, to Constable Clary I included these memories of Father Placidus' reaction: "He was broken up over the incident, mentioned to me the name of the priest to whom he had related the incident--which I presumed was in the sacrament of confession--and he told me he would do whatever I thought he should do. He also mentioned what a blow this would be to Father Abbot Eugene if he knew. I did not say anything to anybody. I was sure Father Placidus was genuinely sorry. I did not consider him as an aggressor but that his sympathetic disposition got him into the mess." Constable Clary told me the young man did not wish to place charges on Father Placidus.

To my mind truthfulness is one of Father's special virtues. In the 50 years I have known him--and during many of them I worked closely with him--I have never known him to tell the slightest lie; if anything, he is tediously and scrupulously exact in recounting what he knows.

He is a key member of our community, the backbone of our choir, a good teacher with heavy classes, a favorite with guests especially for those looking for a sympathetic ear. I think that both he and our community have already suffered very much from the false charges in the media and the papers have done little to publicize the verdict. Our community and the students must have been impressed by the calm and patience in which Father Placidus has taken the heat.

The From Pain to Hope program is appropriate for a genuine Pedophile or a pervert. The allegations and trial have taught Father more effectively than counselling would. If in addition we shelved him by disciplinary action that would tell our friends and the public that we consider Father's problem something more deep-seated than the single serious instance of weakness in an affectionate and sympathetic priest, then there would be an element of untruth in our own reaction.

Everybody on reflection is aware of human weakness and Catholics are routinely reminded of St. Peter's weakness. If his problem is thought to be more serious than just weakness, then a more professional assessment should first be made.

Augustine Kalberer
Augustine Kalberer
December 17, 1997

Statement - agreed to by Fr. Abbott, Monsignor McRae, O.S.B.

Dec. 18/97

CONFIDENTIAL

1. We accept the decision of the Supreme Court of British Columbia acquitting Father Placidus Sander of the criminal charges against him. We are grateful for the prayerful support of many throughout this difficult period.
2. Father Placidus deeply regrets the scandal caused by the isolated incidents of improper behaviour, admitted by him, which occurred thirteen years ago and which came out during the trial, but were not part of the proceedings against him. He recognizes the seriousness of his misconduct and is contrite and repentant.
3. Concerning withdrawal from teaching, Father was ordered by the Provincial Court not to be with students under sixteen years of age pending the outcome of the trial, which exonerated him.
4. Father Placidus has been withdrawn from teaching. He will undergo a professional assessment and will be provided with professional, psychological, and spiritual help as needed. The outcome of these measures will determine whether or not Father Placidus will resume teaching on the level of Arts and Theology.

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3. Concerning withdrawal from teaching, Father was ordered by the Provincial Court not to be with students under 16 years of age pending the outcome of the trial, which exonerated him.

4. As to further restrictions on his teaching activities and monastic life this will be decided by Archbishop Adam Exner and Abbot Maurus Maoraet.

4. Father Placidus has been withdrawn from teaching. He will be provided with professional psychological and spiritual help as needed. The outcome of these measures will determine whether or not Father Placidus will resume teaching. He will continue to teach from the level of Arts and Philosophy.

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1. We have always been ready to accept the judgment of the court and accept the consequences of any ruling which the court may make.

In your case...

2. We ~~are sorry~~ ^{are} ~~regret~~ ^{regret} the incident of ~~the~~ ~~past~~ ~~year~~ ~~and~~ ~~offer~~ ~~an~~ ~~apology~~ ~~to~~ ~~all~~ ~~who~~ ~~have~~ ~~been~~ ~~hurt~~ ~~by~~ ~~our~~ ~~administration.~~ ~~and~~ ~~offer~~ ~~an~~ ~~apology~~ ~~to~~ ~~all~~ ~~who~~ ~~have~~ ~~been~~ ~~hurt~~ ~~by~~ ~~our~~ ~~administration.~~

3. ~~John~~ ~~Placidus~~ ^{fully} recognizes the ~~gravity~~ ~~of~~ ~~his~~ ~~misconduct~~ ~~and~~ ~~is~~ ~~sincerely~~ ~~contrite~~ ~~and~~ ~~repentant.~~

4. ~~John~~ ~~Placidus~~ has been withdrawn from teaching. He will be given a professional assessment and will be provided with professional, psychological and spiritual help as needed. The outcome of these measures will decide whether or not John Placidus will continue his role as a teacher on the level of ~~State~~ ~~&~~ ~~Diocese.~~

Address question - to Congregation for Education and Clergy

1.15
Dec. 19, 1997

Dear Archbishop Exner,

While I thank you for your prayers and support these past two years, I beg your pardon for the pain and scandal I am causing you, my fellow priests, and the Church.

Each day, I unite my prayers and sufferings with the Sacred Heart in reparation and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

May Our Saviour bless you with a grace-filled Christmas.

F. Deirdra

Your Grace,

- Did you want to
put this in your
files?

Louise

Dear Fr. Placidus,

Thank you for your kind wishes and for your apology which I fully accept. I do not doubt your sorrow and am confident that you have made appropriate amendments. I have no desire to impose any further penances on you. The measures taken were judged necessary to assure the general public that your admission in court was taken seriously and to safeguard the credibility of the Abbey & the Church. I hope you can understand this. Please rest assured of my good will and my prayers.

God bless, + A. [Signature]

The statement below will probably appear in the
B. C. Catholic in the near future.

F. Abbot
20/12/97

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Pro-life Mass and prayers

Pro-lifers of the Vancouver Archdiocese will pray the Rosary near an abortion center after attending the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Name Parish, 4925 Cambie St. in Vancouver, on Saturday Jan. 3.

Father Joseph Hattie OMI will offer the Holy Sacrifice.

Following Archbishop Adam Exner's counsel to pray, sacrifice and witness for preborn children and their mothers, Vancouver Catholics hold vigils the first Saturday of each month in a peaceful manner in accordance with existing provincial law.

Speaking at the Dec. 6 vigil at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Vancouver, Father Hattie said that abortion reflects society's fear of the child. God's grace can overcome that fear and replace it with love, he said.

Peter Ryan, director of the archdiocesan Respect Life Office, noted that 20 doctors have stopped doing abortions in BC in the last three years.

In addition to the regular first Saturday of the month Mass, the fifth annual Mass for Life will be offered by Archbishop Exner at 12:10 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 27 in Holy Rosary Cathedral. The Mass for Life is usually offered on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, Dec. 28, but as that date falls on Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Family replaces it this year.

Everyone is welcome to attend both events.

Editor's Note: For more information, contact the Vancouver Archdiocesan Respect Life Office at 683-0281. □

Monk acquitted of charges

A statement issued by Westminster Abbey expresses gratitude for the prayerful support of many people during the trial of Father Placidus Sander on sexual assault charges.

BC Supreme Court Justice Richard Blair acquitted the Benedictine monk of all charges Dec. 12, saying the evidence given by the three complainants was unreliable.

The abbey said Father Placidus "deeply regrets the scandal caused by the isolated incidents of improper behavior" admitted by him during the course of the trial.

The incidents occurred 13 years ago and were no part of the proceedings against Father Placidus, who "recognizes the seriousness of his misconduct and is contrite and repentant," said the abbey.

Father Placidus, who had earlier been ordered by the provincial court not to be with younger students until the outcome of the trial, has now been withdrawn from teaching. He will undergo a professional assessment and will be provided with professional, psychological and spiritual help, said the abbey. The outcome of those measures will determine whether or not he will resume teaching on the level of arts and theology. □

Pope declares Padre Pio venerable, advances others

By CINDY WOODEN
VATICAN CITY (CNS)—
Pope John Paul II officially recognized the "heroic virtues" of

Padre Pio da Pietrelcina, proclaiming him venerable.

The cause for the beatification of Padre Pio, a popular but contro-

versial Italian Capuchin confessor was one of 15 that took a step forward Dec. 18 with the promulgation of papal decrees.

Among the decrees was also recognition of the heroic virtues of Sister Delia Tetrault, the Canadian founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

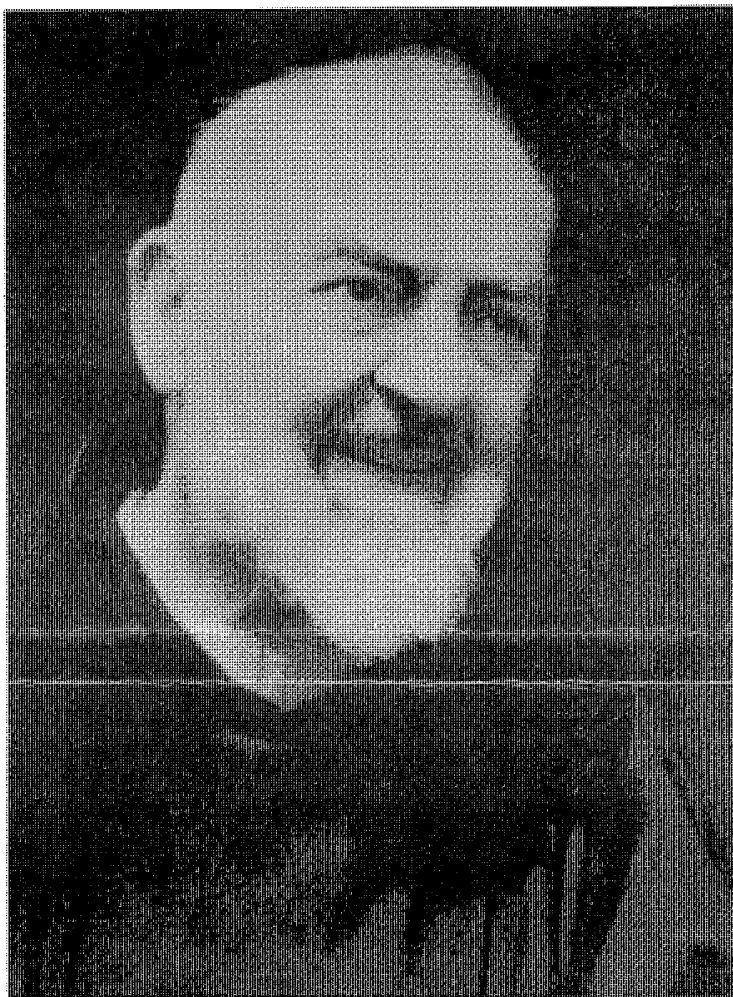
Padre Pio, who was born in 1887 and died in 1968, had been investigated several times during his lifetime by the Vatican for alleged immorality and financial irregularity, but hundreds of people continued flocking to him, asking for his prayers and confessing their sins.

Padre Pio allegedly had supernatural powers and bore the stigmata, the marks of Christ's crucifixion.

The proclamation that he lived a holy life worthy of imitation means that the only remaining hurdle to his beatification is the Vatican recognition of a miracle attributed to his intercession.

The other decrees published Dec. 18 included the recognition of miracles attributed to the intercession of two Italian and two Spanish nuns, as well as to an Italian layman, Giuseppe Antonio Tovini who died in 1897.

The Pope also proclaimed the heroic virtues of Carmelite Sister Teresa of St. Augustine, the daughter of King Louis XV of France; and of Cesare Pisano, a blind Italian hermit known as Brother Av Maria, who died in 1964. □



Monthly Jubilee Masses

A Jubilee newsletter is being issued by the Vancouver Archdiocese chancery office to keep Catholics of the Archdiocese up to date on preparations for the Great Jubilee of the year 2000.

"Everyone is called to prepare for the Great Jubilee," says the most recent newsletter, which suggests prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist as means of preparation.

A special Mass is being celebrated on the first Friday of every month, to be held in different parishes throughout the Archdiocese, with all invited and encouraged to attend. Each month a different or-

ganization in the Archdiocese is responsible for sponsoring and promoting the liturgy.

The next first Friday Mass will be offered at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 2 in Corpus Christi Church at 6350 Nanaimo St. in Vancouver. The Catholic Evangelization Training Ministry is sponsoring the event.

Archbishop Exner asked students in a letter dated Sept. 12, 1997, to prepare for the Great Jubilee by thinking about Jesus in a special way from then until Christmas. He also asked each class to write a prayer to Jesus, with the help of their teacher, to pray it every day between then and

Christmas, and to send a copy of the prayer to him.

He also called on them to write another prayer in January, this time to the Holy Spirit.

The Archbishop offered the following "Archdiocesan Jubilee Prayer" for use at meetings, social events and prayer gatherings.

Heavenly Father, in Your great goodness, You sent Your Son Jesus to be for us the Way the Truth and the Life. He can free us from all that oppress us, especially from sin and evil. He came so that we might have life and have it to the full.

As we prepare to celebrate the Great Jubilee commemorating the birth of Jesus, help us by the power of Your Spirit to strive for a new springtime of Christian life and to create the conditions to ensure that the power of salvation may be shared by all.

We ask this with optimism, confidence and hope in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, our patroness, pray for us.

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Latimer appeal 'reassuring,' says Archbishop

By LAUREEN McMAHON
Archbishop Adam Exner OMI says he is pleased that the Saskatchewan Justice Department plans to appeal the two-year sentence handed to Robert Latimer for killing his disabled daughter, Tracy.

"This news will be reassuring to disabled people, whose lives must never be seen as worth less than those of others," said the archbishop.

"The lesson of history is clear. Whenever the lives of some are seen as worth less than the lives of others, the consequences are always horrendously inhuman and tragic."

Disabled rights and anti-euthanasia groups also said Saskatchewan had made the right decision. "We strongly support the decision to appeal," said Yoseph Thomson of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. "We believe the trial judge was wrong. While Mr. Latimer got compassion, Tracy got a death sentence."

Other advocates for the disabled had a similar message. "I'm really pleased that they are doing this because I know we've put a lot of pressure on them," said Bev Boehm of Saskatchewan Voice of People with Disabilities. "We thought that there was an injustice done—that people with disabilities are fearful for their lives and this was just opening a whole can of worms."

Justice Ted Noble of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench granted Latimer a constitutional exemption from the minimum second-degree murder penalty Dec. 1, outraging disabled people's groups across the country.

It was the first ruling of its kind in a murder case.

Noble ruled that Latimer had killed the 12-year-old out of mercy and that it would be cruel and unusual punishment to sentence him to mandatory life in prison with no chance of parole for 10 years.

The 43-year-old Latimer was sentenced to two years less a day, with half the sentence to be served in a provincial jail and half on his farm in Wilkie, Saskatchewan.

Although he was convicted of second-degree murder in November 1994, an appeal was launched on the grounds that his confession to the police had been improperly obtained. The Supreme Court unanimously rejected his claim but ordered a new trial because of allegations of jury-tampering.

He was found guilty for the second time in Battleford, Saskatchewan, November 5.

Latimer's defense lawyer Mark Brayford says he is disappointed with news of the appeal and that he plans to confer with his client about a counter-appeal.

In a written statement, Brayford said he considered Mr. Justice Noble's original decision on sentencing "a fair compromise that society could live with."

Latimer, who is currently in a Saskatoon jail, had no comment.

Earlier this month, Professor Alan Young of Osgoode Hall law school had said Latimer's chances in an appeal were good because it is "based on compelling compassionate circumstances."

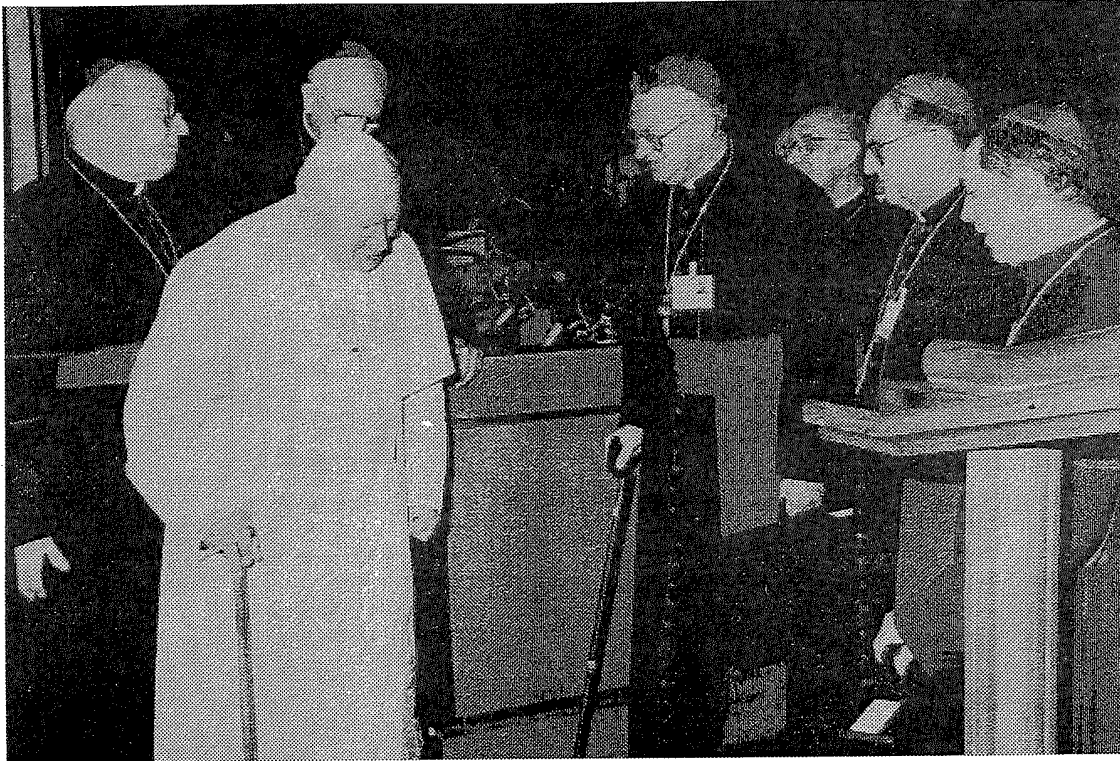
"The only thing that cuts against its success is the general aversion courts have to creating constitutional exceptions, because what it does is carve up an existing constitutional law," said Professor Young. □

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December 22-28, 1997



CARDINALS and bishops attending the Synod of Bishops for America at the Vatican wait for Pope John Paul II and Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb (center) to pass by. The Pope and the archbishop from Mobile, Alabama, share a few quips on their use of canes. (CNS)

Pope's annual message

'Justice and peace linked'

By LYNNE WEIL
VATICAN CITY (CNS)—International debt and official corruption are major obstacles to world peace, Pope John Paul II said in an annual message.

The Pontiff's thoughts for the World Day of Peace, observed each year for the last three decades on Jan. 1, were published Dec. 16 at the Vatican.

Look for the entire document in the next issue of *The BC Catholic*.

Pope John Paul said he wanted to address his remarks to heads of state this year, adding, "May the codes which govern the states you serve be a guarantee of justice for the people and an incentive for an ever growing sense of civic responsibility."

The Pope emphasized throughout the document that jus-

justice and peace are inextricably linked. The head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Cardinal Roger Etcheagaray, said at a news conference that "the face of the poor can be found in every paragraph" of the message.

Cardinal Etcheagaray called the document "a message of vast horizons which confronts today's primary challenges."

The 16-page message discussed several economic issues, including debt burdens faced by developing countries, corruption of government and legal authorities, the gulf between the wealthy and the poor, and access to credit.

The Pope praised programs which offer "micredit," or small and short-term loans for projects by people who would otherwise have trouble getting bank loans.

"These are initiatives to be encouraged," he said, "for this is the path which can lead to the radical elimination of the shameful scourge of usury, by giving everyone access to the economic means needed for the dignified development of families and communities."

Turning to the subject of debt, the Pope said external debt in developing lands "compromises the economies of whole peoples and hinders their social and political progress." International financial institutions, he added, are taking measures to relieve debt burdens.

"The wealthier nations can do much in this respect, by supporting the implementation of such measures," the Pope said.

The Vatican is urging organi- (See "Corruption"—page 12)

Another blow to school rights

By ART BABYCH

OTTAWA (CCN)—Despite a last-minute appeal by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Senate voted 45-26 Dec. 18 to amend the Constitution to abolish minority religious education rights in Newfoundland.

Surprisingly, among those who voted in favor of the resolution was Senator and Roman Catholic nun Sr. Peggy Butts of Nova Scotia.

The Senate's ratification of the amendment follows approval earlier in the House of Commons and needs only royal assent to become law, but some Senators warned that the issue could bounce back to Parliament for a third time if the amendment is challenged under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"If this goes through they'll be back again next year," Tory Senator Lowell Murray told the Senate moments before the vote was taken. "It's become an annual event."

Parliament last year passed the so-called Term 17 amendment, but because of a successful court challenge the Newfoundland government introduced a new amendment which, like the (See "Amendment"—page 12)

Synod releases final message

By CINDY WOODEN
VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Members of the Synod of Bishops for America called Catholics to a conversion marked not only by deep faith and fidelity to the Church, but also love of neighbor and solidarity with the poor.

For full text, see pages 9, 10, 11.

"Ultimately, the personal encounter with Jesus Christ leads to solidarity," the 233 voting members of the synod said in their final message to Catholics in North and South America.

"Solidarity in its completeness is the sharing of what we are, what we believe and what we have," said the message, released at the Vatican Dec. 11, the day before the ceremonial close of the month-long synod.

Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte of Montréal was appointed by Pope John Paul II as president of the commission which drafted the document.

The message included both the "joys" and the "concerns" of the Church in America.

"We send special greetings to you, the women of our continent, conscious of the extraordinary role you have already played in our history and in the handing on of the faith," the message said.

"With special love and care we greet you, the children," the bishops wrote. "We pray that your days of childhood may be spent with those who love you and who shield you from the dangers of our society."

"We turn with heavy hearts to the bitter hardships borne by you, the children of the streets," the

bishops said. "What you, the children of God, suffer, should happen to no one."

Throughout the hemisphere, they said, "there is need to protect innocent unborn children from the scourge of abortion."

Synod participants also wrote of the continent's poor, its broken families and its immigrants.

The native peoples of the Americas, they said, "have suffered so much these past five centuries at the hands of the greedy and violent" and still today "enjoy so little of the abundance our lands have produced."

The message included a special section addressed to African-Americans.

"The wounds of those terrible centuries of slavery still sting the soul," they said. "We pledge ourselves to continue to work (See "Do not"—page 12)

~~for the ...~~

Feb. 26/98 - Conductor

Ward -

- Lewis - some prudent do not do
- Morse - should do (can manage without him)
- Smith - should do
- Ferson - should do
- Jensen - should not do
- Mason - having him do not problems
- Ross - some prudent do not do - to have things done

- original complaints - would bring matter to public & to Finance - Business would go to Langley for Coll. Card.

Dr. Abbot - Feb 13/98 - ...

① - ... a reasonable doubt.

② - Williams (VAD) (written by Dr. Williams)

1 1/2 pages (written by Dr. Williams)

"The general appearance of ...
...
..."

- He - because of close proximity to the young women
- general publicity re: charges
of ...

- Passion - historical or commercial reasons
be in pairs
or in setting that discourages
too great a feeling of privacy.

- did not administer any tests -

- Awaiting report from Dr. ... - re: reactions of our
... re: Dr. Placidus
& his admissions:

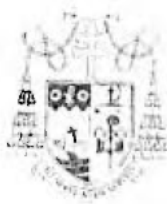
- Re: Incident admitted -

- ...
- Dr. Placidus - ...
| ... with a
| ... - otherwise
| ...

- Dr. Abbot - "don't if students feel they are at risk"

- ...
- "I could take responsibility" - ...

- Want to see Dr. Hay's report but - will get back to him
Q. of ... - ...
| ...



FILE COPY

Archdiocese of Vancouver
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

August 19, 1998

Rt. Rev. Maurus Macrae, OSB, Abbot
Westminster Abbey
Mission, BC V2V 4J2

Dear Father Abbot:

In a telephone conversation on August 11, 1998, you asked me to once again consider the possibility of allowing Father Placidus Sanders to do some teaching on the college and theology level.

Since our telephone conversation, I have had the opportunity to again discuss the issue with my advisers and have come to the following conclusion. Considering the perceptions and the reaction of our laity, clergy, and some of our seminarians, the prudent course indicated is that Father Placidus not be allowed to teach. While I realize that this conclusion will place an extra burden on your teaching staff, I am of the opinion that the credibility of the Abbey and of the Archdiocese, which must be protected, requires it. I pray that God may bless you, your community and your important and appreciated presence and ministry in the Archdiocese.

With personal best regards and the assurance of my prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Adam Exner, OMI
Archbishop of Vancouver

AE/mlm



December 2, 1998

Reverend Harold Vincent Sanders (a.k.a. Father Placidus Sanders)
Seminary of the Christ the King
GD 34224 Dewdney Trunk Rd
Mission BC V2V 4J2

Dear Father Sanders:

This letter is to advise you of current actions being taken to investigate circumstances that could have bearing upon the validity of your Independent School Teaching Certificate.

Certain statements in your testimony made during trial, as reported by media, have raised concerns. The Independent School Teacher Certification Committee has requested the Inspector of Independent School to obtain a transcript of your actual testimony at trial, to assess your suitability to retain British Columbia Independent School Teacher Certification.

This letter is sent to inform you of this decision. If you have any observations or submissions you would want to make regarding this, you may forward them to the Office of the Inspector of Independent Schools. Confidential copies will be provided to members of the Independent School Teacher Certification Committee.

Sincerely,



Inspector





PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

March 29, 1999

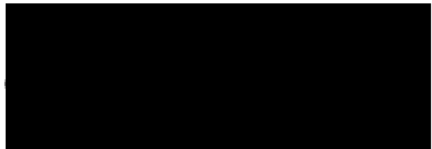
Reverend Harold Vincent Sanders (Father Placidus Sanders)
Seminary of the Christ the King
GD 34224 Dewdney Trunk Rd
Mission BC V2V 4J2

Dear Father Sanders:

Further to my letter to you of December 2, 1998, I have now had an opportunity of reviewing the transcript of your evidence given at your criminal trial respecting charges of indecent assault, gross indecency and buggery. In order to complete my investigation preparatory to this matter being referred to the Independent School teacher Certification Committee, I request an interview with you in order to obtain further information regarding certain conduct and actions disclosed in the proceedings.

Apart from information regarding the substance of the criminal charges, I am also concerned by two further disclosures made in the proceedings. The first disclosure relates to your admission of kissing a student on the lips and acknowledging that this was inappropriate conduct. The second matter relates to your admission of a consensual homosexual genital act between yourself and a grade 12 student at the Seminary of Christ the King at Westminster Abbey in Mission. I am sure you will appreciate that these matters are fundamental to the issue of your fitness to retain your Independent School teacher certification. Consequently, I will be contacting you in the next few weeks to arrange a suitable time and place for the interview.

There is a further inquiry that I would make of you at this time as it may affect the course of my investigation. It is my understanding that you have been engaged in other duties in the Seminary and have not been involved in teaching students of school age for some considerable time. If, in fact, you do not propose returning to teaching school age students, you may have no further need to maintain an active Independent School Teacher Certificate. Clearly, these are matters for you to determine. However, if you were contemplating voluntarily relinquishing your Independent School teacher certification at this time, perhaps you would advise me accordingly as that would obviate the need for further investigation of these matters.



Inspector

* Phoned May 3, 1999 to say he could come here on either Mon. June 7, at 9:00 a.m. or Fri. June 11, at 2 p.m. for a meeting with me & Father Abbot.

JPL 5.11.99 4. v. 99



SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING

Mission, British Columbia V2V 4J2 • (604) 826-8715

June 22, 1999

[REDACTED]

Ministry of Education,
Inspector of Independent Schools,
P.O. Box 9153 Stu. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 9H1

[REDACTED]

Further to your letter of March 29, 1999, and your visit here with Abbot Maurus, Father Augustini and myself on June 7th, I hereby relinquish my Independent School teacher certification.

Thank you for the time and pains you have taken in this regard and on my behalf.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. V. H. Placidus Sanders, O.S.B.

(The name on my teaching certificate appears as "Sander").

Original
Certificate enclosed - V.H.P.S.

Msgr Gregory Smith

From: Mary Margaret MacKinnon [mm_mackinnon@gulldyule.com]
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2002 9:47 AM
To: Msgr. Gregory Smith
Subject: Re: Archdiocesan Policies

i would simply reply thanking her for the information and telling her the policy is in the mail

----- Original Message -----

From: "Msgr. Gregory Smith" <gnsmith@rcav.bc.ca>
To: "Mary Margaret MacKinnon" <mm_mackinnon@gulldyule.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2002 11:46 AM
Subject: FW: Archdiocesan Policies

> MM:

>

> In light of the fact that the monk she names was criminally charged and

> acquitted, but is nonetheless removed from the seminary on account of his

> acknowledged sexual contact with an adult seminarian, do I need to pursue

> the matter further?

>

> Seems to me I could simply reply thanking her for the information?

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From:

> Sent: Monday, June 24, 2002 1:05 PM

> To: gnsmith@rcav.bc.ca

> Subject: Re: Archdiocesan Policies

>

>

> Msgr. Gregory N. Smith,

>

> Today I received your request for the name of the abusing monk at

> Westminster Abbey. At the time he was known as Fr. Placidus (Harold

> Vincent Sanders). I believe our family members contacted the

> archdiocese, the Abbey and the RCMP/B.C. in the year following my

> husband's death. My husband's name was _____ at the time of

> the abuse.

>

> Please let me know if I can be of further assistance. I look forward

> to

> receiving the policy and report mentioned below.

>

> Mrs.

>



1.71
EJ 350/20
File
SCK

SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING

FACULTY OF ARTS

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

February 26, 2015

RECEIVED MAR 05 2015

Archbishop Michael Miller CSB
Archdiocese of Vancouver
4885 Saint Paul John Paul II Way
Vancouver, BC V5Z 0G3

Your Excellency,

I wish to thank you for paying for my trip to the IPF Symposium which was held last week in Denver, CO. Father Bryan Duggan and I both found the presentations and discussions to be helpful in our work in promoting and forming priestly vocations. It is encouraging to know that other seminary formators face the same challenges as we do, something which is hardly a surprise, and are balanced, serious and capable in working to address the spiritual and human issues which arise in priestly formation. I think that IPF, which is known to you, has some solid resources and hope that we will draw upon them in the future.

Our faculty met on Monday, February 23 to evaluate the theologians. I am currently drafting the faculty responses and plan to discuss them with the theologians as early as next week. I hope to forward the evaluation documentation to you by mid-March, so that you and your advisory committee can meet and make decisions for the summer and beyond.

I do not foresee a large turnover in the seminary community at the end of this year, but we will see how things shape up over the next couple of months.

Rest assured of my prayers as we journey through this season of Lent and as you and the chancery staff transition to a new facility.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Matthew Gerlich OSB
Rev. Matthew Gerlich OSB
Rector

1.70

ED 350/20
SCK

On Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 4:05 PM, Archbishop J. Michael Miller <mmiller@rcav.org> wrote:

Dear Fr Abbot,

Once again, thank you for the conversation last week. We had a Vocations Committee meeting today (Frs. Duggan, Nguyen, Huang, Hughes) and enthusiastically endorsed two proposals:

1. The Archdiocese would gladly make available a priest to be in residence for young men in a propaedeutic or spiritual year program. As matters unfold, we can become more precise about implementation.
2. Frs. Duggan, Nguyen and Hughes accepted being members of a Joint Committee on Formation to be set up between the Archdiocese and the Seminary. The format would entail open discussion but proposals or recommendations would then be submitted to the two of us. The matters on the table, at least initially, would be how we can together improve the formation (especially its human dimension) of the seminarians. To set up times and places and agenda I will leave it to Fr Duggan to be in touch with whomever you ask from the Seminary to fulfill that role. I do hope that some discussion can take place before the end of the summer.

With gratitude for the openness of our conversation and with fraternal prayers,

+Michael

From: Benedict Louis Braganza [<mailto:frabbotwestminster@gmail.com>]
Sent: June-01-15 4:03 PM
To: Archbishop J. Michael Miller
Subject: Fr. Abbot

I have not forgotten your request for names of possible ecumenical reps for the advocacy committee. I have contacted them asking their permission to share their contact information. I am sure I will get a positive response.

On another topic, I would like to know your thoughts: if we did have a house of formation available close to the Abbey/SCK, would you consider guaranteeing a priest-in-residence for the duration of the academic year for 1st year seminarians of the Vancouver Archdiocese?

Fraternally in the Lord,

Fr. Abbot John, OSB



JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING

PROPOSALS

Meeting: Dec 11th, 2015

In open and fruitful dialogue the committee came to a consensus that the following proposals be made to Archbishop Miller and Fr. Abbot John Braganza regarding the relationship between the Archdiocese of Vancouver and the Seminary of Christ the King.

- 1) The committee discussed the proposed policy of the Archdiocese of Vancouver regarding the seminarians serving at Archdiocesan events. The policy was agreed to in principal with concerns being expressed by the faculty about the need to respect the intellectual and spiritual formation of the seminarians. It was also recommended that seminarians be reminded about their freedom to not choose to remain at the seminary when needed.
- 2) In regards to faculty needs for the future the following recommendations were made:
 - a. In theology there is need of a Canon Law professor on the topic of "The People of God." Fr. Justin Huang was discussed as a possibility.
 - b. In Arts there is need of an English professor. The Archdiocese commits to pursuing its channels to find a suitable candidate.
 - c. The seminarians have requested a for-credit pastoral counseling course. This request was echoed by the Archdiocese and some members of the monastic faculty.
 - d. The Archdiocese suggested providing the best available for homiletics training and pastoral liturgy. Frs. Nelson Santos and John Horgan were proposed respectively.
 - e. The CISVA will be consulted about any retired or otherwise available teachers that may be able to assist with the seminary high school in any subject area.
 - f. It was recommended by this committee that a full revision of the curriculum should be discussed. However this revision should wait until after accreditation has been resolved and greater clarity on the potential relationship with San Anselmo is achieved.
- 3) A number of challenges were put acknowledged regarding the proposed spirituality year beginning 2017. Decisions should be made soon regarding:
 - a. The financial arrangements for seminarians taking part in the year.
 - b. Developing a full schedule of for the year including presentations, retreats and pastoral placements. Potential faculty and spiritual directors should be identified.
 - c. Whether a subcommittee needs to be developed for the spirituality year.



Archdiocese of Vancouver
VOCATIONS OFFICE

JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE

4885 Saint John Paul II Way
Vancouver, BC | T: 604-683-0281
V5Z 0G3 |

- 4) Once the agreement between the Archdiocese and the Seminary has been agreed upon the canonical statutes of the Seminary of Christ the King should be developed and submitted to the Holy See. The rule of life should also be updated in the future.

- 5) It was discussed by the committee that the seminarians would benefit from increased communication among seminary formators. Perhaps faculty could meet regularly (or at least once) before the faculty evaluations in the spring to discuss each of the seminarians and their particular formation needs. This increased communication could help formators work as a team by being on the same page as well as airing any disagreements that may exist among formators. The Archdiocese requests that the observations of Jake Khym be incorporated into these discussions.

1.72

ED350-20



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Vancouver, BC | 604-683-0281
V5Z 0G3

JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING PROPOSALS

Meeting: June 30th, 2015

In open and fruitful dialogue the committee came to a consensus that the following proposals be made to Archbishop Miller and Fr. Abbot John Braganza regarding the relationship between the Archdiocese of Vancouver and the Seminary of Christ the King.

Aug/Sept
Planning +
Dec/Jan -
-new stud)
June

Dec/Jan

(1) The committee recommends that it meet quarterly, alternating locations between the John Paul II Pastoral Center and the Seminary of Christ the King. The meeting schedule should respect the Seminary calendar (i.e. one meeting at the end of the academic year, another at the beginning, one near Christmas and another at evaluation time in the spring.) The next meeting is proposed for the first week of August.

yes

Bryan dates *

2) Every effort should be made to anticipate - even several years in advance - the faculty needs of the Seminary so that the best available teachers can be located and given time to prepare. In particular, with regard to clerical teachers, much advance notice should be given to the Archbishop in order that pastoral responsibilities can be properly adjusted to better free a priest for work at the seminary.

yes //
list →

3) The Archdiocese is willing to be consulted in the recruitment of teachers for the Seminary since it is able to reach a wider pool of potential faculty. This Joint Advisory Committee could be a vehicle for broadening the recruitment process and connecting the Seminary with known experts throughout the Archdiocese.

yes

high school ↔ CISVA

list of events

Communication should be improved between the Archbishop's Office and the Rector when scheduling the seminarians' presence at various Archdiocesan events, with respect given to the academic and liturgical calendar of the Seminary and its particular communal life.

yes

Fr. Abbot

5) Jake Khym's presence at the Seminary should be better integrated into the overall formation. His presentation of material and assignments should respect the other demands of the seminary schedule (i.e. avoiding giving exercises during exams). Better communication with the faculty is desired, perhaps taking the form of a weekly meeting with Fr. Rector and at least monthly with Fr. Abbot. It is suggested that Jake be present two afternoons every week to enable these meetings and make more time available to the seminarians for one-on-one sessions.

me over

//
↑

Fr. Abbot

6) The pastoral work component of seminary formation should be developed to include a greater breadth of experience. Methods of assessing growth in this area should be explored.



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 V5Z 0G3

In addition to these formal proposals agreed upon a number of guiding principles and matters of concern were also raised that could be reviewed at subsequent meetings:

- i. The negotiation of the contract between the Archdiocese and the Seminary should proceed with urgency to formalize the structure of this relationship.
- ii. The communal life of the Seminary of Christ the King is a value to be protected and integrated with the life of Westminster Abbey. When considering changes to the Seminary care must be given to avoid creating unhealthy division between the Abbey and the Seminary.
- iii. There is openness to consider having a diocesan priest assigned fulltime to the Seminary, perhaps beginning 2017. The details should be examined and decided upon at a later date.
- iv. Consideration should also be given to the Seminary high school. Developments in the Major Seminary may have an effect on the high school that must be evaluated.
- v. Closer collaboration between the Seminary and the Vocations Office is desired regarding the summer parish placements and formation plans for seminarians.

most up-to-date

=

u/s ~~statutes~~ statutes.

*John Meyer
 access to Forest
 decided here
 across the street.*



JCK

**JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING
PROPOSALS**

Meeting: June 30th, 2015

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~~planning~~
planning +
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(new)
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^{Aug/Sept} 1) The committee recommends that it meet quarterly, alternating locations between the John Paul II Pastoral Center and the Seminary of Christ the King. The meeting schedule should respect the Seminary calendar (i.e. one meeting at the end of the academic year, another at the beginning, one near Christmas and another at evaluation time in the spring). The next meeting is proposed for the first week of August. *Bryan, dates * arrange*

Dec/June

yes

2) Every effort should be made to anticipate - even several years in advance - the faculty needs of the Seminary so that the best available teachers can be located and given time to prepare. In particular, with regard to clerical teachers, much advance notice should be given to the Archbishop in order that pastoral responsibilities can be properly adjusted to better free a priest for work at the seminary. *spreadsheet: priests + degrees what they can teach / availability*

yes!!

list →

3) The Archdiocese is willing to be consulted in the recruitment of teachers for the Seminary since it is able to reach a wider pool of potential faculty. This Joint Advisory Committee could be a vehicle for broadening the recruitment process and connecting the Seminary with known experts throughout the Archdiocese. *high school ↔ CISVA*

yes

list of events

4) Communication should be improved between the Archbishop's Office and the Rector when scheduling the seminarians' presence at various Archdiocesan events, with respect given to the academic and liturgical calendar of the Seminary and its particular communal life.

yes

— Fr Braganza → AB Fr. Matthew - once per semester
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Fr Abbot

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Fr Abbot



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} most up-to-date

}

=

CONTRACT:

not ABC

cf. rather than citations

~~with~~ statutes.

(P. King)

John Meyer

access to Forest

decided how to
avoid the street.

integrated prog. year
for Western bps?

-
1. sent to Abbot
• "positive vibe"

John not yet given schedule
+ not clear whether 2 days

→ clinical on hold.

- wants Monday + Wed.

-
2. Zak Mok - IVP
→ not decided.

3. How often? 4x per yr?
at least 1 " "

- 4.



JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING PROPOSALS

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Agreement
Between the Archdiocese of Vancouver and
Westminster Abbey
Regarding the Major Seminary of Christ the King

On the Feast of Christ the King, October 25, 1931, the Seminary of Christ the King was established and dedicated as the Major and Minor Seminary of the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

Later, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Vancouver, on July 22, 1939, the Benedictines established a foundation in the Archdiocese to take charge of the Seminary of Christ the King. The land and buildings that currently constitute both Seminaries, Major and Minor, belong to Westminster Abbey and are maintained by the Abbey and not by the Archdiocese (cf. CIC, c. 263).

In the light of this relationship, the Archdiocese and Westminster Abbey recognize that this Agreement refers only to the governance of the Major Seminary. The Minor Seminary will remain, for the present, under the full responsibility of Westminster Abbey.

1. The Major Seminary of Christ the King's program for priestly formation is recognized as the Major Seminary of the Archdiocese of Vancouver (cf. CIC, cc. 237, 681; The Constitution and Statutes of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation, C58.2 and S59.1.)
2. The Seminary of Christ the King is a Major Seminary which receives only men who intend to pursue studies leading to ordination to the priesthood.
3. This Agreement will be in force for a period of ten years, after which time it may be renewed for a further period agreed to by both parties.
4. Neither party will rescind the Agreement without at least three years' notice; nor will they make any changes in it unless agreed upon by both parties and with a year's prior notice.
5. The Abbot of Westminster Abbey appoints the Rector, Vice-Rector, Spiritual Director, and faculty members subject to confirmation by the Archbishop of Vancouver. All teachers of the sacred sciences must receive the *mandatum* from the Archbishop of Vancouver (cf. CIC, c. 253).

6. To foster communion between the two parties and to assist in the formation of seminarians as diocesan clergy, the formation faculty of the Seminary should include diocesan priests who, if both the Abbot of Westminster Abbey and the Archbishop of Vancouver agree, will participate fully at meetings at which seminarians are evaluated.
7. The Archbishop of Vancouver is to receive, at least yearly, a report regarding the progress in all aspects of formation of every seminarian studying for the Archdiocese.
8. The Archbishop of Vancouver has the right of visiting the Seminary as often as he wishes and likewise can correct those things which, according to general or particular law and the norms established by the Congregation for the Clergy, might harm the proper formation of seminarians in piety, learning and discipline (cf. CIC, cc. 259 §2, 397).
9. The Archbishop of Vancouver reserves the right to approve the program of studies for the Major Seminary. He is to ensure its conformity with the current *Ratio Fundamentalis* of the Holy See and with that promulgated by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (cf. CIC, c. 243).
10. The Seminary will have its own Rule, approved by both the Archbishop of Vancouver and the Abbot of Westminster Abbey (cf. CIC, c. 243).
11. The law or norms according to which the governance of the Seminary is to be regulated will be clearly indicated. Statutes are to be approved by the Archbishop of Vancouver and the Abbot of Westminster Abbey (cf. CIC, c. 239 §3). These Statutes will also be in agreement with the civil Charter and By-laws.
12. Although Westminster Abbey is responsible for the financial support of the Seminary, the Archdiocese of Vancouver may enter into a separate agreement with the Abbey whereby it pays for the whole or part of the remuneration of particular professors or formators at the Seminary. The Archdiocese of Vancouver recognizes its obligation to support the Seminary financially when and if Westminster Abbey presents a request for funding.
13. If the need arises, the Seminary, with the consent of the Archbishop of Vancouver, may raise funds for itself in the Archdiocese (cf. CIC, c. 264). Any funds collected will be the property of the Seminary of Christ the King.
14. The Archbishop of Vancouver agrees to send his seminarians (arts, pre-theology and theology) to the Seminary of Christ the King, except in particular cases in which, according to his prudential judgment, a seminarian's formation or the needs of the Archdiocese would be better served in another seminary.

15. The student fees will be set by Westminster Abbey, according to prevailing economic conditions.
16. The provisions of this Agreement are to remain firm, notwithstanding any privileges conceded to the Order of St Benedict.
17. This Agreement replaces the contract made between the Archdiocese of Vancouver and Westminster Priory entered into on August 25, 1949, and formally ratified by the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries and Universities on September 21, 1949.

Given at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on this 29th day of June, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

+ J. Michael Miller CSB
Most Reverend J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver

+ John Braganza, OSB.
Right Reverend John Braganza, OSB
Abbot of Westminster Abbey

+ Luigi Bonazzi
Most Reverend Luigi Bonazzi
Apostolic Nuncio to Canada
(Witness)

Addendum to the Agreement

Should the apostolic work of the Seminary of Christ the King be changed or altered in a significant manner through suppression, transfer, the erection of another Archdiocesan Seminary, or the sending of students to another Seminary, the Archdiocese of Vancouver recognizes and accepts the following:

1. Westminster Abbey's responsibility of discerning a suitable apostolic work to sustain the monastic community which is mutually agreed upon by Westminster Abbey and the Archdiocese of Vancouver, unless the monastic community decides not to pursue an apostolic work in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.
2. The responsibility of providing necessary monies to Westminster Abbey to accommodate changes to buildings and grounds brought about concerning the above. This would apply primarily to the Major Seminary, which is the object of this Agreement.
3. The Archbishop's acknowledgement for Westminster Abbey to continue to provide education for students pursuing priestly studies and forming members of other religious institutes.
4. The name of the Seminary shall be retained, namely, "Seminary of Christ the King."

Given at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on this 29th day of June, the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

+ J. Michael Miller CSB

Most Reverend J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver

+ John Braganza, OSB.

Right Reverend John Braganza, OSB
Abbot of Westminster Abbey

Luigi Bonazzi

Most Reverend Luigi Bonazzi
Apostolic Nuncio to Canada
(Witness)



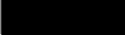
RE: RCAV.ORG Contact Form Submission

3 messages

Roland Carelse-Borzel <rcavbishop@rcav.org>

Thu, Aug 30, 2018 at 3:03 PM

To: 

Hi 

Archbishop Miller has read your message and asked me to arrange an appointment for you.

Would it work at 1:30 PM next Thursday, September 6?

With best regards,

Roland

Roland Carelse-Borzel

Executive Assistant to the Archbishop

Archdiocese of Vancouver

(604) 443-3203 (direct)

(604) 683-0281 ext. 50446

rcav.org | [facebook](#) | [twitter](#) | [instagram](#)



Archdiocese
of Vancouver

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 7:06 PM
To: Janice Tumanon <jtumanon@rcav.org>
Subject: RCAFV.ORG Contact Form Submission

 <http://rcav.org/wp-content/uploads/Archd3-p-1.png>

Full Name

[Redacted]

Email

[Redacted]

Message

Hello Your Grace,
I have concerns regarding the seminary that I would like to discuss with you either via telephone or in a face-to-face meeting. Can you please let me know if this is possible and which would work best for you.
Thank you.

In Christ,
[Redacted]

Sent through online form at

<https://rcav.org/contact-the-archbishop/>

[Redacted]

Thu, Aug 30, 2018 at 3:08 PM

To: Roland Carelse-Borzel <rcavbishop@rcav.org>

Hi Roland,
Yes, that will work.

Thank you,

[Redacted]

[Quoted text hidden]



Archdiocese of Vancouver image001.png
14K

Roland Carelse-Borzel <rcavbishop@rcav.org>

Thu, Aug 30, 2018 at 3:11 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED] – confirmed.

With best regards,

Roland

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

3.1

Archbishop's Office

From: Roland Carelse-Borzel
Sent: August 30, 2018 3:12 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: RCAV.ORG Contact Form Submission

Thanks [REDACTED] - confirmed.

With best regards,

Roland

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: August 30, 2018 3:08 PM
To: Roland Carelse-Borzel <rcavbishop@rcav.org>
Subject: Re: RCAV.ORG Contact Form Submission

Hi Roland,
Yes, that will work.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

On Thu, Aug 30, 2018, 3:03 PM Roland Carelse-Borzel, <rcavbishop@rcav.org> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Archbishop Miller has read your message and asked me to arrange an appointment for you.

Would it work at 1:30 PM next Thursday, September 6?

With best regards,

Roland

Roland Carelse-Borzel

Executive Assistant to the Archbishop

Archdiocese of Vancouver

(604) 443-3203 (direct)

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rcav.org | [facebook](#) | [twitter](#) | [instagram](#)

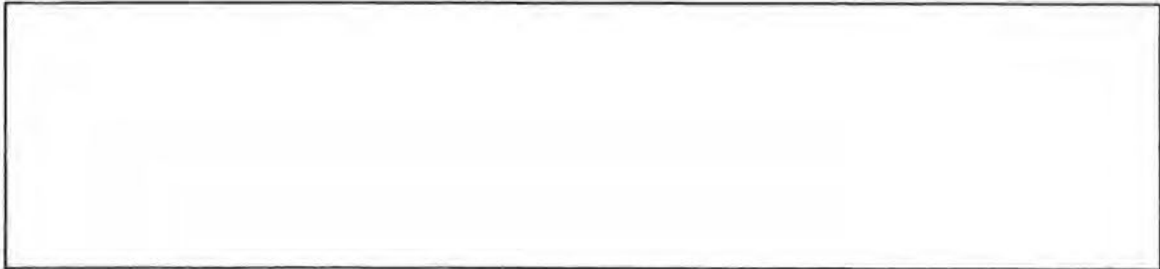


From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 7:06 PM

To: Janice Tumanon <jtumanon@rcav.org>

Subject: [RCAV.ORG](#) Contact Form Submission



Full Name

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Message

Hello Your Grace,
I have concerns regarding the seminary that I would like to discuss with you either via telephone or in a face-to-face meeting.
Can you please let me know if this is possible and which would work best for you.
Thank you.

In Christ,
[REDACTED]

Sent through online form at

<https://rcav.org/contact-the-archbishop/>

3.2

Handwritten notes:
Call 9/10/18
to Max for

From: Archbishop J. Michael Miller
Sent: September 10, 2018 8:06 PM
To: Roland Carelse-Borzel
Subject: FW: Fr. Abbot

file

From: Archbishop J. Michael Miller
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 8:01 PM
To: 'John Braganza' <frabbotwestminster@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Fr. Abbot

Thanks, Father Abbot, for letting me know about Ray Donnelley's intentions. I had heard, indirectly, that he was very upset about Fr Placidus. No one, to date, has contacted the Archdiocese about this particular matter.

For all of us, the past few weeks have been particularly painful. The Pennsylvania grand jury report and the revelations about McCarrick have shaken many. We can only pray that the Lord will, in his good time, draw good from this situation.

My prayers are with you, the monks and the seminarians as the new year begins.

+Michael

From: John Braganza <frabbotwestminster@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 7:04 PM
To: Archbishop J. Michael Miller <mmiller@rcav.org>
Subject: Fr. Abbot

Dear Archbishop Michael,

On the 4th September I met with one of our faculty members, me. Ray Donnelley from Bellingham. He wanted to speak with me about all the potential victims of Fr. Placidus. He wanted me to contacts all the victims. He also wished that I or Fr. Placidus make a public apology. He wants them to know that there is help available for them.

I said we/I was in touch with the Archdiocese already. I also said that you had already made a very general and open invitation to this effect. But I added that we were already thinking about how to do this in a way that would respect the confidentiality of the victims (if there are others). I assured him that I was working on all this.

However, my main reason for writing you now is to simply let you know that Mr. Donnelly has taken it upon himself to contact the seminarians he has taught in the past and ask them to spread the news.

I just thought you would like to know this. I didn't want you to get this second hand.

In fact I was planning to speak with you tomorrow now that the three Seminary formation programs have begun and I have a moment to do other important things.

Peace.

Fr. Abbot

CW/No/07
Sex Abuse - 5/11

From: Archbishop J. Michael Miller
Sent: August 18, 2018 12:41 PM
To: Roland Carelse-Borzel
Subject: Fwd: Sander: Father Placidus Sander osb | Sylvia's Site

Print

From: Rev. Joseph Thoai Le <jle@rcav.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 18, 2018 8:20 AM
To: Archbishop J. Michael Miller
Subject: FW: Sander: Father Placidus Sander osb | Sylvia's Site

Your Grace,

I also received this statement today and have responded to it. In my response, I also cc Fr. Benedict. Just to let you know.

In Christ,
Fr. Joseph

From:
Sent: Friday, August 17, 2018 10:56 PM
To: Rev. Joseph Thoai Le <jle@rcav.org>
Subject: Sander: Father Placidus Sander osb | Sylvia's Site

Dear Fr. Le

I came across the following website and am highly concerned that a monk who has admitted to consensual homosexual relations with an 18 year old seminarian is still at Westminster Abbey around other seminarians. The website also details some serious accusations against this monk, granted they were not proved in court.

As a mother with young sons I simply do not feel safe sending my sons to Westminster Abbey knowing that a homosexual priest is still there! Please advise why this man is still allowed to be at our seminary?!?!

Sincerely

Parishioner, St. Patrick's
Maple Ridge

<https://www.theinquiry.ca/wordpress/accused/charged/sanders-father-placidus-sanders/>

Sander: Father Placidus Sander osb

Father Placidus Sanders

Dom Placide Sander

Dom Placidus Sander

Father Harold Vincent Sanders

The Canadian Catholic church Directories spell his last name without the "s" – SANDER. Media coverage spells his surname SanderS. I have opted to go with the CCCD

Benedictine priest. Ordained 22 May 1952. 1996 – charged with four counts of indecent assault, one count of gross indecency and one count of buggery related to sex abuse of three boys age 12 to 14 between 1974 and 1978. The boys were 12 to 14 years old at the time. At trial said he had consensual sex with an 18-year-old student. 1997: ACQUITTED. Went back to teach at the seminary.

2017, 2012, 2011, 1999: Westminster Abbey, Mission, BC (CCCD)

04 May 2008: preached annual Ecumenical retreat in Cache Creek, BC to three Anglican, three Lutherans and 13 Catholic priest. Bishop Monroe (Diocese of Kamloops) was in attendance (Kamloops Diocese News letter JUNE 2008 (page 7 – Father Placidus Sander conducting retreat))

14 December 1997: ACQUITTED (M)

December 1997: at trial said he had consensual sex with an 18-year-old seminary student on one occasion in the 1980s. (M)

January 1996: Charged with four counts of indecent assault, one count of gross indecency and one count of buggery related to allegations that in the 70's he molested three boys at Christ the King Seminary, Westminster Abbey, in Mission British Columbia

May 1993: RCMP investigation started after first complainant came forward (M)

1974-1978: teaching at Christ the King seminary, Westminster Abbey in Mission, BC. – there was both a major and a minor seminary on site, both called Christ the King (M)

1973-74: Westminster Abbey, Mission BC. Listed in CCCD as Dom Placidus Sander (Abbot at the Abbey Right Rev. Eugene Medved. Prior Very Rev. Wilfred Sowrby) (Rector at the Major Seminary: Very Rev. Augustine Kalberer) (Rector at the Minor Seminary: Very Rev. Chrysostom) (CCCD)

1968-69: Choir Director, Westminster Abbey, Mission BC. Listed as Dom Placide Sander (CCCD) (Abbot at the Abbey Right Rev. Eugene Medved. Prior Very Rev. Wilfred Sowrby) ((Rector at the

Major Seminary: Very Rev. Sowrby) ((Rector at the Minor Seminary: Very Rev. Maurus Macrae)
(CCCD)

1967: Rector, Christ the King Minor Seminary, Westminster Abbey, Mission BC. (CCCD) (Abbot at the Abbey Right Rev. Eugene Medved. Bursar: Dom Boniface Aicher) Rector at the Major Seminary Very Rev. Dom Wilfred Sowrby (CCCD)

1959: Rector Christ the King Minor Seminary, Westminster Abbey, Mission BC. Listed as Dom Placidus Sander

1952: ORDAINED (CCCD)

Monk wins acquittal on sex charges

The Vancouver Province

14 December 1997

CHILLIWACK — A Westminster Abbey monk has been acquitted of all six sex-offence charges against him.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Richard Blair said the evidence given by the three complainants was unreliable and could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt the offences were committed.

Harold Vincent Sanders, 70, was on trial on charges of buggery, gross indecency and four counts of indecent assault for allegedly sexually assaulting three teenage boys at the Mission monastery.

“There were so many inconsistencies and contradictions given in the evidence,” said Blair. “I cannot convict the accused of any of the charges. I find the Crown’s case not to be beyond a reasonable doubt.”

The three complainants, who cannot be named because of a publication ban, testified they were sexually assaulted by Sanders, also known as Father Placidus, between 1974 and 1978.

Sanders refused to comment after his acquittal. Fellow Westminster Abbey monk Father Maurus Macrae said they were pleased with the decision.

One complainant said he is upset that Sanders will be returning to the monastery, particularly since during the trial Sanders admitted to having consensual sex with an 18-year-old student.

"I find this is so bizarre, that he admitted to having sex with a high-school student at the seminary and now he's going back there to teach," he said.

Evidence unreliable, monk's lawyer argues

The Vancouver Province

09 December 1997

CHILLIWACK — A monk facing sex-offence charges should be acquitted because of unreliable evidence and inconsistent memories recounted by the three complainants, says lawyer Richard Peck.

"The Crown's case is so full of inconsistency and some points of exaggeration, the standards of proof point to reasonable doubt," Peck told B.C. Supreme Court yesterday.

Peck is defending Harold Vincent Sanders, a monk at Mission's Westminster Abbey, against charges of buggery, gross indecency and indecent assault involving three teenage boys in the 1970s.

One complainant testified he remembers drawing a profile of his art teacher, Sanders, known as Father Placidus, during class. He said the monk told him to come to his office afterward for what the then-13-year-old thought would be a whipping. But when he went to the office, he said, the monk forced him to submit to anal intercourse.

Peck, however, said Father Placidus never taught art class.

"The details (the complainant) describes are sketchy," he said during final arguments. "It appears his evidence was totally unreliable."

Peck said the testimony of another complainant who claimed he was fondled by the monk may have been financially motivated. He said the complainant phoned the abbey in the late 1980s and asked for compensation for a broken arm he suffered at the monastery almost a decade earlier.

"His business went bankrupt, so he called the monastery asking for money," said Peck.

He said the third complainant has an extensive record of "dishonest" crimes.

But Crown counsel Jack Gibson said Father Placidus, as dormitory supervisor at the abbey, had the opportunity to assault the boys as alleged.

Justice Richard Blair is to hand down his decision Friday.

Assaults on boys denied by monk

The Vancouver Province

07 December 1997

CHILLIWACK — A monk on trial for allegedly sexually assaulting three teenage boys testified he would never commit such "serious offences" in the eyes of God.

"What is alleged is a serious offence against a person and a serious offence against God," Harold Vincent Sanders told the B.C. Supreme Court. "Categorically, they did not happen."

The Westminster Abbey monk, known as Father Placidus, was charged in 1996 with buggery, gross indecency and indecent assault after three complainants alleged they were assaulted by him while living in the monastery as students in the 1970s.

One testified that Father Placidus fondled his genitals while giving him a sponge bath. The 13-year-old boy was unable to wash himself because his arm was broken.

He said Sanders, on another occasion, came to his bed in the middle of the night and fondled him.

Sanders has admitted he gave the complainant a sponge bath but said he did not wash his genitals.

"I did not wash his genitals because he had one arm he could use for that purpose," he said. "I am definite about the fact that I did not do that."

Crown counsel asked Sanders whether he had perhaps blocked out the memory.

"I could not have blocked it out. I say this before the court and before God. I don't see how any human being could block that out. The conscience of someone would have to be hardened."

A second complainant testified last week that he was called to Father Placidus's office for what he believed was a strapping but instead was raped.

Sanders was the dormitory supervisor in the 1970s.

Chilliwack: Ex-Abbey Student Says Monk Fondled Him

The Vancouver Sun

05 December 1997

Another former Westminster Abbey student testified he was fondled by Father Placidus on two occasions in 1977 as the monk's B.C. Supreme Court trial continued this week in Chilliwack.

The 33-year-old man said he had just turned 13 when Harold Vincent Sanders, known as Father Placidus, came to his bed in the middle of the night and fondled him. Sanders, 70, is on trial for buggery, gross indecency and four counts of indecent assault for incidents involving three seminary students in the 1970s.

Defence lawyer Richard Peck pointed out the complainant originally said he did not experience sexual abuse at the monastery and, in a statement to the Mission RCMP in 1993, said his year at the monastery was the best year of his life.

Monk admits consensual sex

The Vancouver Province

05 December 1997

CHILLIWACK — A Westminster Abbey monk on trial on sexual- assault charges says he had consensual homosexual relations with an older student.

Harold Vincent Sanders, known as Father Placidus, told B.C. Supreme Court yesterday he had consensual sex with an 18-year-old seminary student on one occasion in the 1980s. He said he often gave students hugs and kissed one student on the lips twice.

But the 70-year-old monk insisted he never touched boys without their consent: "I respect people. That is such an important thing in my beliefs."

He is charged with buggery, gross indecency and indecent assault relating to a series of alleged incidents in the 1970s.

Three complainants testified Sanders sexually assaulted them when they were teens living at the monastery and he was responsible for monitoring the junior boys' dormitory.

He remains a teacher at the Mission abbey.

Alleged rape ended dream of priesthood

The Vancouver Sun

03 December 1997

CHILLIWACK — A child's dream of becoming a priest was shattered when he was raped by a monk at Mission's Westminster Abbey monastery, a man told B.C. Supreme Court yesterday.

The complainant, 34, said monk Harold Vincent Sanders, now 70, sodomized him when he was a 13-year-old living at the monastery.

"I no longer believe in God," the alleged victim told the court. "After that incident, I didn't want to become a priest any more. I was thinking differently. I had an experience I didn't quite know how to deal with, and my belief in that institution had been destroyed."

Sanders, known as Father Placidus at the monastery, is charged with buggery, gross indecency and four counts of indecent assault for alleged attacks on three boys in the 1970s.

"I attended the school in 1977 because I wanted to become a priest. Father Placidus taught Latin and art classes and was the dormitory supervisor," he said.

During an art class, students were asked to sketch a profile of Father Placidus, he said. When the drawings were turned in, the monk asked the complainant to see him in his office.

The complainant said he thought he was going to get a whipping for doing something wrong. Instead, he said, Father Placidus sodomized him.

Monk molested me: Ex-student

The Vancouver Province

02 December 1997

CHILLIWACK — A monk charged with sexually assaulting three boys at Westminster Abbey in Mission pleaded not guilty in B.C. Supreme Court yesterday.

Harold Vincent Sanders, 69, was charged in January 1996 with buggery, gross indecency and four counts of indecent assault.

A three-year police investigation examined complaints by three men stemming from alleged incidents in the mid-1970s.

The first of the complainants testified he was assaulted by "Father Placidus" on at least three occasions while he lived at Christ the King Seminary, part of the abbey.

The 36-year-old complainant, who because of a publication ban cannot be named, said the first assault took place when he was in Grade 8 after his arm was "intentionally broken" by another monk.

"I had a cast that went around my whole arm and I couldn't move it whatsoever," he said. "I had to be bathed in the infirmary by the monks.

"I'm in the infirmary. I remember the door being shut. I didn't have anything on at all. I remember I was being sponge-bathed. (Sanders) seemed to be fixating on cleaning my penis and genital area a little more than necessary. I remember him playing with me. . . . The same thing happened the second time — he fondled and masturbated me."

The witness testified: "When I was in Grade 9, I woke up and found him on the side of my bed. He had his hand down by my genital area and was stroking me."

When asked by Crown counsel Jack Gibson whether he ever consented to these actions, the man replied, "Not a chance."

Defence lawyer Richard Peck asked the witness why he didn't mention the alleged sexual assaults in complaints filed with Delta police and Mission RCMP in 1993.

The complainant said he tried to tell the police about the assault on both occasions.

Sanders, who still lives at the abbey, refused a jury. He was released on \$2,500 bond. A second complainant is expected to testify today.

TEACHER AT ABBEY SEMINARY

— Harold (Father Placidus) Sanders served as a Benedictine monk at Westminster Abbey and taught at the Seminary of Christ the King.

— About 55 students at the seminary, ranging in age from 13 to the mid-50s, take high-school, college and theology classes. There are about 15 teachers, some of whom are monks.

-- The monastery is self-sufficient in food. The monks grow vegetables and maintain a large herd of cattle.

Accused priest in court

The Vancouver Sun

08 February 1996

A priest charged with sexually assaulting students at a seminary school at Westminster Abbey in Mission during the 1970s made a first appearance in court Wednesday.

Father Placidus, 68, also known as Harold Vincent Sanders, is charged with four counts of indecent assault, one count of gross indecency and one count of buggery.

At the time of the alleged abuse, the accused was a teaching father at the seminary school. He was released on bail and ordered not to be alone with persons aged under 16. His next court appearance will be March 1.

Priest facing 6 sex charges: Counts allege seminary teacher assaulted boys

The Vancouver Province

08 February 1996

John Bermingham

A 68-year-old Mission priest turned himself in yesterday to face multiple sex charges from 20 years ago.

Father Placidus Sanders of Westminster Abbey in Mission, also known as Harold Vincent Sanders, was released on his own recognizance and a \$2,500 surety yesterday at Abbotsford provincial court.

Sanders is charged with a total of four counts of indecent assault, one count of gross indecency and one count of buggery against three male victims.

The acts are alleged to have taken place between 1974 and 1978, when the men were seminary students aged 12 to 14 years old.

Crown prosecutor Gregg Goodfellow told The Province that Sanders was a teaching father at the seminary at the time of the alleged acts.

The Mission RCMP investigation started in May 1993, when the initial complaints were made.

There are two publication bans preventing any further details becoming public.

Sanders' next court appearance is in Abbotsford March 1.

An alleged victim told The Province in an interview that his life became a nightmare after a four-year stint at Westminster Abbey.

He said during his stay at the abbey he fell off the roof and severely damaged both his legs.

"I've hardly ever been able to hold a job," he said yesterday. "Every time I do, my body gives out. I'm a basket case."

Coming forward, he said, will help to restore his self-confidence.

Sent from my iPhone

1.11

From: Anthony Nguyen <anthonyosb@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 10:22 AM
To: Archbishop J. Michael Miller <mmiller@rcav.org>
Cc: Fr. Abbot <frabbotwestminster@gmail.com>
Subject: Father Placidus CV

Dear Archbishop Michael,

Greetings from the Abbey! Fr. Abbot asked me to send to you a CV of Fr. Placidus so that you have a reference. There are details in there that may not be suitable for the public, such as the names of the complainants, and that he was appointed Postulant Master since this pertains to the Abbey and not the Seminary. We want you to have all the facts. With regards to his appointment as Postulant Master, Fr. Abbot considered the matter and did not think that he was no longer a threat given his evidence of conversion after many years after the incident.

If you have any other questions please let me know.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Anthony

1.12

Fr. Placidus Sanders, baptismal name, Harold Vincent

September-06-18 10:55 AM

Mar. 10, 1927. Born in Tillamook, OR.

Sep. 12, 1947. Entered Westminster Priory.

Sep. 12, 1950. Made Solemn Vows.

May 22, 1952. Ordained a Priest.

1952-54. Studied at Sant'Anselmo, Rome for STL.

Sep. 1955-1965. Appointed Rector of Minor Seminary.

Sep. 1973 Appointed Vice-Rector

May 1, 1987. Letter of Seminarians (anonymous) to Abbot Eugene through Nuncio. Warned Abbot Eugene about Fr. Placidus Sanders of homosexual activity with seminarians.

Nov. 5, 1987. Letter of Nuncio to Abbot Eugene. Forwarded letter of seminarians.

Nov. 24, 1987. Letter of Abbot to Nuncio. Stated, "first serious complaint against Fr. Placidus." Thought it prudent to make some necessary changes without admitting the guilt of the accused.

Sep. 1988 Replaced Fr. Placidus as Vice-Rector by Br. Meinrad.

Feb. 7, 1996. 6 Charges against him of sexual assault against 3 minors from January 1974 to June 30, 1978.

- See attached document for details including conditions of bail.

-

- DH [REDACTED]

- Conditions of bail observed even after conclusion of trial.

Dec. 12, 1997. Acquitted of all charges by BC Supreme Court Judge, Richard Blair. Said that evidence given by the three complainants was unreliable and did not prove beyond a reasonable doubt his guilt. Admitted to consensual homosexual sex with an 18 year old adult student in the 1980s. Also admitted to kissing one student on the lips twice.

Dec. 28, 1997. Statement issued by Westminster Abbey to the BC Catholic. Stated that Fr. Placidus, "deeply regrets the scandal caused by the incidents of improper behaviour. The Abbey said, " he recognizes the seriousness of his misconduct and is contrite and repentant." He has been withdrawn from teaching. Continued to conduct practice session of chant to major seminarians. Remained as spiritual directors of some major seminarians.

1997. Archbishop Exner' restrictions, through Msgr. Gregory Smith, ordered him not teach

In the Seminary.

Aug. 19, 1998. Archbishop Adam Exner, refused Abbot Maurus' petition for P. Placidus to be reinstated as a teacher in the seminary.

Jun. 22, 1999. Relinquishes Independent School Teacher Certificate.

Sept. 9 2014 - Aug. 2017. Appointed Postulant Master, with Br. Joseph Bruneau as assistant.

August 2017 - Retires and is in infirmary.

Compiled on Sept. 11, 2018
By Rev. Anthony Nguyen, OSB
Abbot's Delegate

NOTES FOR FILE

Date

1996

complaints ; criminal
charges against Fr
Placidus Sander

Telephone Call:

T

F

Interview

with:

Client:

Re:

Box 1

34

277 West 1st Street, Unit # 211
North Vancouver
BC V7M 0E8

BernadetteHowell@shaw.ca

Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB
Archdiocese of Vancouver
John Paul II Pastoral Centre
4885 Saint John Paul II Way
Vancouver BC V5Z 0G3

Saturday June 8, 2019

Dear +Michael,

When Leona and I met with you on Friday 22 March 2019 and shared with you a 'summary' document we had produced (with respect to one particular clergy member accused of abuse of a minor) you asked if we could leave you with a copy of this but also copies of other similar summary type documents we had produced so that these, by way of information, could be placed on individual clerics files.

To this end, enclosed are copies of the other 'summary documents' we produced (from time spent at the library and via other internet sources/media etc.).

Please know that we hold no responsibility for accuracy and no liability for any information provided.

Attached please find such summary documents for:

1. Alfred Sasso
2. Damien Cooper
3. George Gordon
4. Georges Chevrier
5. Jack McCann * (updated summary to follow)
6. John Kilty
7. John Tritschler
8. Placidus Sanders
9. Roland Joncas

Sincerely,



Bernadette Howell

Harold (Placidus) Sanders

Date of Birth: ?

Date of Ordination: 22 May 1952

Ordained same day/date:
Ordained month prior/after:
Ordained same year:

Date of Death:

Current status: Living at the Abbey, Mission (2019)

No photo available

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>FELLOW PRIESTS</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
1959	Christ the King Minor Seminary, Mission		Rector Christ the King Minor Seminary, Westminster Abbey, Mission BC. Listed as Dom Placidus Sander (Sylvia's Site)
1967	Christ the King Minor Seminary, Mission	Eugene Medved Boniface Aicher Wilfred Sowrby (CCCD)	Rector Christ the King Minor Seminary, Westminster Abbey, Mission BC. Listed as Dom Placidus Sander (Sylvia's Site)
1968- 1969	Christ the King Minor Seminary, Mission	Eugene Medved Wilfred Sowrby Maurus Macrae (CCCD)	Choir Director, Westminster Abbey, Mission BC. Listed as Dom Placide Sander (CCCD)
1973/1974		Eugene Medved Wilfred Sowrby Maurus Macrae (CCCD)	
1974/1978	Christ the King Seminary, Mission		
1993	Christ the King Minor Seminary, Mission		RCMP investigation started after first complainant came forward (Media source)
1996	Christ the King Seminary, Mission		Charged with four counts of indecent assault, one count of gross indecency and

Placidus Sanders [Disclaimer: Information here has been gathered from library sources and media posts by Bernadette Howell and Leona Huggins who hold no responsibility or liability for the information provided. This summary overview was submitted to the Archdiocese of Vancouver following the request of Archbishop Michael Miller (March 22, 2019) that any such overviews collated by Bernadette Howell and Leona Huggins be placed on the individual cleric's file.]

1997	Christ the King Seminary, Mission	one count of buggery related to allegations that in the 70's he molested three boys at Christ the King Seminary, Westminster Abbey, in Mission British Columbia (Sylvias Site)
		At trial said he had consensual sex with an 18-year-old seminary student on one occasion in the 1980s. (Sylvia's Site)
		"Harold Vincent Sanders, known as Father Placidus, told B.C. Supreme Court yesterday he had consensual sex with an 18-year-old seminary student on one occasion in the 1980s. He said he often gave students hugs and kissed one student on the lips twice. But the 70-year-old monk insisted he never touched boys without their consent: "I respect people. That is such an important thing in my beliefs." (Media source, Dec 1997)
		December 14, 1997: Acquitted
		(An acquittal signifies that a prosecutor failed to prove his or her case beyond a reasonable doubt, not that a defendant is innocent)
2008	Christ the King Seminary, Mission	Preached annual Ecumenical retreat in Cache Creek, BC to three Anglican, three Lutherans and 13 Catholic priests. Bishop Monroe (Diocese of Kamloops) was in attendance (Kamloops Diocese News letter JUNE 2008 (page 7 – Father Placidus Sander conducting retreat))
2011, 2012, 2017	Christ the King Seminary, Mission	
2018	Christ the King Seminary, Mission	



Archdiocese of Vancouver
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE

June 12, 2019

Mrs. Bernadette Howell
211-277 West 1st Street
North Vancouver BC V7M 0E8

Dear Bernadette:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 8, 2019, with which you enclosed the summary documents prepared by you and Leona Huggins. I very much appreciate your sending these, recognizing the time and effort that went into compiling this information.

With cordial greetings, I remain

Sincerely yours,

+ J. Michael Miller CSB

✠ J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver

From: Archbishop J. Michael Miller
Sent: November 22, 2019 12:45 PM
To: Roland Carelse-Börzel
Subject: FW: Fr. Placidus
Attachments: 2019-11-21 Archbishop regarding publication of name of Fr. Placidus (revised).docx

All should be kept on file.

From: Benedict Louis Braganza <frabbotwestminster@gmail.com>
Sent: November 21, 2019 9:58 AM
To: Archbishop J. Michael Miller <mmiller@rcav.org>; Rev. Joseph Thoal Le <jle@rcav.org>
Subject: Fr. Placidus

Good Morning Your Grace,

After having spoken to you on your way back from the Priests' Study Day I had a chance to speak with the community about the publication of names. Their advice to me was against the publication of his name for the reasons we have outlined in the attachment I have enclosed.

I am available to be reached by phone if you so desire.

Faternally in Christ,

Fr. Abbot.

--

Abbot John Braganza
Westminster Abbey
Mission, BC
604-826-8975

PLEASE NOTE: This message is intended solely for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and prohibited from disclosure under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and other applicable laws. Any other reproduction, distribution or disclosure is strictly prohibited.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 6 December 2019 4:16 PM

To: mruiggierandrews@rcav.org <mruiggierandrews@rcav.org>

Subject: Just another game to make people feel that you care- reporting sexual abuse

Hello Mrs. Ruggie-Andrews

My apologies if my subject line sounds a bit attacking, however I find it difficult to stomach yet another attempt by the church and namely the Archdiocese of Vancouver to sound as though it cares for those who have been sexually abused by those working within the church.

Back in 1993 I reported abuse that had happened to me at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission in 1982. At the time of reporting, it was when all of the TV shows had come out reporting and recreating those acts of abuse at Mt Cashel Orphanage in Newfoundland. I had a number of sessions with one of your counsellors at the time (1993) and felt as though I had built enough courage in myself to deal with the perpetrator Fr. Placidus Saunder at Westminster Abbey.

At the time I had great belief in the catholic church as they had organised for me to meet with Archbishop Adam Exner, which I did. Ironically he was my bishop of Kamloops whilst I was at SCK. I felt he heard me. I then met with Abbott Maurus Macrae at Westminster Abbey, a meeting the Archbishop Exner's office had arranged. Again I was feeling heard. I met with Fr. Placidus on the same day and he profoundly could not remember the events that had transpired only 11 years earlier. I was devastated. If I was the kind of person to do this I would have reached across the table and knocked his lights out- no acknowledgement, no remorse and worse – no understanding of what I had gone through in those 11 years.

Now I am at the other side of the world and no longer living in Canada. I would have thought that not participating within the church that let me down would make things better; they are not. With the recent charges against Cardinal George Pell and now a civil suit pending against the church from another student that attended SCK prior to me, I know that there are cover-ups. I am also a great example.

My greatest disappointment is that you have someone that I confided in; Msgr Gregory Smith on your review panel and I smell another rat! I did not want to be part of the criminal charges against Fr . Placidus as I did not want to have to go through the emotional trauma not just for me but my wife and family. I sincerely hope for those that have truly been damaged by the church with abuse that this is not just another ruse to make those believe that the church cares. I believed in it and it grossly failed me. Don't do this to others as well. Please note that the person (name?)that helped counsel me at the time was the only good thing that has happened to me in all this time.

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

[Abuse Crisis](#) · [Clergy Sexual Abuse Report](#)

2020 Update Report on Clergy Sexual Abuse

December 14, 2020

[INTRODUCTION](#)

[UPDATE](#)

[PROGRESS SINCE THE NOVEMBER 2019 REPORT ON CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE](#)

[OBJECTIVES STILL OUTSTANDING](#)

[ADDITIONAL UPDATES](#)

[PRIEST SEXUAL ABUSE UPDATE](#)

[CONCLUSION](#)

In late 2019, the Archdiocese of Vancouver published a report on the historical cases of clergy sexual abuse in the archdiocese. Since then an archdiocesan group has been working to implement recommendations published in that report. This new report gives an overview on the progress of that group, a few more updates and the publication of an additional three priests involved in abuse settlements that have not been previously published.

[Click here to download the 2020 Update Report on Clergy Sexual Abuse](#)

If you or someone you know has experienced clergy sexual abuse, we encourage you to report it and take a step towards the healing and care you deserve. Our primary concern is your well-being. We are here to support you in any way we can with your mental, relational and/or spiritual needs.

While an accurate and transparent reporting process of abuse is important, our top priority is that you receive the care and support you deserve. No matter how long ago the abuse may have occurred, we encourage you to come forward. If you want to speak with an independent social worker, please call (604) 363-7338. The people providing this service will compassionately listen to you and outline some possible options for care.

We are aware that many victims/survivors and their families have little or no connection with the Catholic church. But for those who choose to approach us, we are committed to offering you the compassion, respect and path towards the deeper healing that you deserve. You are not alone and people within the Catholic community deeply want to help. We understand how much courage it takes to report your experience and we sincerely hope that each victim will consider coming forward.

Introduction

In late 2019, the Archdiocese of Vancouver published a report on the historical cases of clergy sexual abuse in the archdiocese. While the subject and findings are troubling for many, the response received was positive overall, and much good has come from the steps taken. Subsequent to the Report, 13 previously unknown victims/survivors have come forward and reported their experiences. In most cases, meetings with representatives of the Archdiocese have taken place and support services, including counselling, have been offered.

We understand that some people think that we should speak less about this issue because it may seem that it feeds into an "antifaith" narrative. Moreover, the vast majority of reported abuse cases occurred between the 1960s through the 1980s. Others, including some victims/survivors, think that we are still not doing enough to address the issue and they remind us that recent and future cases may yet come to light.

We believe that greater transparency allows us to reach and care for more victims/survivors while increasing vigilance and safe environments within our parishes. Catholics are called to accept the hard truth of clerical sexual abuse and to live lives of charity and mercy, especially reaching out to the most suffering among us. We ask for your

abuse and to live lives of charity and mercy, especially reaching out to the most suffering among us. We ask for your prayers and patience as the Archdiocese does its best to address this painful issue effectively and with compassion. Archbishop J. Michael Miller stated, "We again want to acknowledge the deep suffering of the victims and their loved ones and I apologize to each of them for the trauma caused by the abuse by a priest. They are in my prayers."

Update

The Implementation Working Group ("IWG") was formed to assist in the development and application of solutions proposed in the Case Review Committee's ("CRC") final report, dated Nov. 25, 2019. (The report can be found online at rcav.org/abuse-crisis/abuse-report).

A number of the 31 recommendations were already implemented by that date; many are still in progress. Below is a list of three categories:

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11. The Archdiocese has shared all available information with religious orders who have members accused of clerical sexual abuse in Vancouver. See [Recommendation #30](#).

Objectives Still Outstanding

1. Archdiocesan employees are still filling this role while a full victim/survivor support system is being developed. See [Recommendation #4](#).
2. The two independent investigators are working through the files of accused clerics and can bring in other support resources as needed. See [Recommendation #10](#).
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Priest Sexual Abuse Update



Fr. John Edward Kilty was born in 1919 and ordained in 1945. He served at the following parishes in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

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Fr. Kilty died in 1983. Twenty years later, in 2003, an allegation of sexual assault of a minor was received from a man and another allegation by a different man was received shortly after. The families involved received counselling and a financial settlement was reached with one party. Another allegation was brought forward in 2013 by a family who believed that their son had been abused, but the person involved decided not to proceed with a claim. In November of 2019, after the publication of the Report on Clergy Abuse, another man came forward with an allegation of sexual abuse when he was a minor in the 1970s. Representatives of the archdiocese met with the man, heard his personal story, and offered him counselling services and other support. In October of 2020 a new allegation was brought forward in a lawsuit alleging sexual abuse of a minor in the 1970s.



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He left the archdiocese to go to Mexico.

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He took medical leave after refusal of assignment.

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He worked at St. Mary's, Vancouver, and at Youville Residence, Vancouver, from 1967.

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Conclusion

Some past accusations have been very difficult to assess based on several factors but we will continue to work towards clarity and justice for victims/survivors. Currently, remaining cases fall into the following categories.

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What can we help you find?



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4885 Saint John Paul II Way Vancouver BC V5Z 0G3
Phone: [604 683 0281](tel:6046830281) Fax: [604 683 4288](tel:6046834288)



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Report on Clergy Sexual Abuse Update



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While an accurate and transparent reporting process of abuse is important, our top priority is that you receive the care and support you deserve.

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1.43

CONFIDENTIAL

— MINUTES —
IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP
FEBRUARY 4, 2021 AT 10:00 AM

Present: Mr. James Borkowski (Chair), Mrs. Barbara Dowding, Fr. Gary Franken,
Deacon Bruce Fraser, Mr. Makani Marquis

Present via Zoom: Sr. Nancy Brown, SC(H), Mrs. Sharon Goh

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Lisa Marquis

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MINUTES OF THE IWG MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2021 AT THE JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Next Meeting: March 4th at 10:30am

Appendix 1:

Potential Clergy Abuse Update Flow

[REDACTED]

4. Running list of clergy members for consideration of publication.

[REDACTED]

b. [REDACTED]

c. Fr. Placidus

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.64

CONFIDENTIAL

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MARCH 4, 2021 AT 10:00 AM

Present: Mr. James Borkowski (Chair), Mrs. Barbara Dowding, Fr. Gary Franken,
Deacon Bruce Fraser, Mr. Makani Marquis

Present via Zoom: Sr. Nancy Brown, SC(H), Mrs. Sharon Goh

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MINUTES OF THE IWG MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2021 AT THE JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Next Meeting: March 4th at 10:30am

Appendix 1:

Potential Clergy Abuse Update Flow

[REDACTED]

4. Running list of clergy members for consideration of publication.

[REDACTED]

c. Fr. Placidus

[REDACTED]

1.65

CONFIDENTIAL □

— MINUTES —
IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP
APRIL 7, 2021 AT 10:00 AM VIA ZOOM

Present: Mr. James Borkowski (Chair), Mrs. Barbara Dowding, Fr. Gary Franken,
Mrs. Sharon Goh, Mr. Makani Marquis, Sr. Nancy Brown, SC(H), Deacon
Bruce Fraser

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Lisa Marquis

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MINUTES OF THE IWG MEETING
APRIL 7, 2021 AT THE JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MINUTES OF THE IWG MEETING
APRIL 7, 2021 AT THE JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Next Meeting: May 5th at 10:00am.

Appendix 1:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4. Running list of clergy members for consideration of publication.

[REDACTED]

b. Fr. Placidus (checking with legal and religious group if ok to publish)

[REDACTED]

MINUTES OF THE IWG MEETING
APRIL 7, 2021 AT THE JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE



CONFIDENTIAL

— MINUTES —
IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP
JUNE 2, 2021 AT 10:00 AM VIA ZOOM

Present: Mr. James Borkowski (Chair), Mrs. Barbara Dowding, Fr. Gary Franken, Mrs. Sharon Goh, Mr. Makani Marquis, Sr. Nancy Brown, SC(H), Deacon Bruce Fraser

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Q3: How seminaries handle abuse issues if Seminarians are not clergy members.

- a. In the coming year, [REDACTED] recommends that Deacon Bruce shares info regarding how to both protect others and themselves with the seminarians.
- b. [REDACTED] informed the group that she did provided education to monks, seminarians and priests when she was in SE.
- c. [REDACTED] shared concerns regarding Christ the King's understanding of our policies and how they fit in.
- d. [REDACTED] Safe Environment in the Seminary is critical, and our leverage is in sending seminarians.
- e. DB: Ongoing discussions

1.67

CONFIDENTIAL

— MINUTES —
IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP
OCTOBER 27TH, 2021 AT 10:30 AM
OUR LADY'S BOARDROOM

Present: Mr. James Borkowski (Chair), Mrs. Barbara Dowding, Fr. Gary Franken,
Mrs. Sharon Goh, Mr. Makani Marquis, Sr. Nancy Brown, SC(H), Deacon
Bruce Fraser

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

New Names:

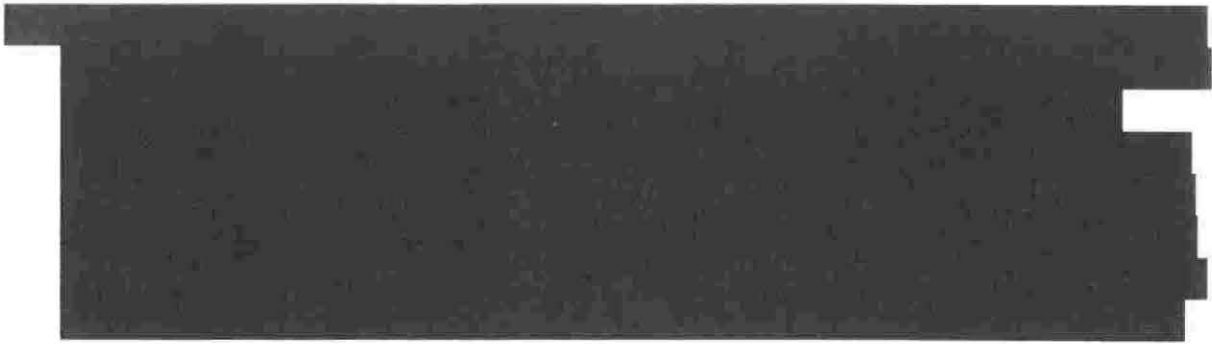
- **Placidus** – check in with both lawyers to understand what we can say. We will need to connect with the Monastery before anything is printed. **ACTION: Barb** will check with Mary Margaret McKinnon what we can share. **Fr. Gary** will ask Fr. Abbot if he is ok if we publish something.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MINUTES OF THE IWG MEETING
OCTOBER 27, 2021, AT THE JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE



Next Meeting: November 17 at 10:30am

1.68

CONFIDENTIAL

— MINUTES —
IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP
JANUARY 26TH 2022 AT 10:30 AM
JOSEPH THE WORKER

Present: Mr. James Borkowski (Chair), Mrs. Barbara Dowding, Fr. Gary Franken,
Mrs. Sharon Goh, Mr. Makani Marquis, Sr. Nancy Brown, SC(H), Deacon
Bruce Fraser

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

June Publication:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Harold Saunder/Placidus update may be possible, but we will need to wait to hear if this is the time. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Next Meeting: February 23rd at 10:30pm

Justine Goco

From: Justine Goco
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 8:26 AM
To: Clergyupdate
Subject: Clergy Update - RIP - Father Placidus Sander, OSB

Title: Reverend
First Name: Placidus
Middle Name:
Last Name: Sander
English Name:
Religious Order: Benedictine (OSB)
Effective Date: October 15, 2021
Update:
 New to RCAF
 Change in appointment
Position:
Location:
 Leave of absence from RCAF
 Leaving RCAF
 Died

RCAF Email:

Notes: Father Placidus Sander, OSB, passed away on October 15, 2021.



Justine Goco
Assistant to the Vicar General;
Administrative Assistant, Chancery & Archbishop's Office
(604) 683-0281 ext. 50464
rcav.org


Archdiocese
of Vancouver



The Archdiocese of Vancouver acknowledges that the land on which we gather and work is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwəlat (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.



MEMORANDUM

TO: All Priests; All Permanent Deacons
CC: All Parishes
FROM: Father Gary Franken, Vicar General 
DATE: Saint Paul of the Cross
October 19, 2021
RE: MFMO – RIP – Reverend Placidus Sander, OSB – Funeral Details

This is a follow up to the MEMO that was sent on October 15th, 2021, regarding the death of Father Placidus Sander, OSB, who passed away earlier that morning.

The reception of Father Sander's body in the abbey church will be on Tuesday, October 26th, 2021 at 5:00 pm, which will be followed by Vespers.

The funeral will be on Wednesday, October 27th, 2021 at 2:00 pm. As per the present public health orders, there are no restrictions on the number of people who wish to attend the funeral Mass, however masks, are of course, required. The reception will be in the guesthouse lobby, following the funeral. Those in attendance, will need to wear masks except while eating or drinking.

Let us remember Father Sander in our prayers along with the Benedictine community.

Requiescat in pace.

Justine Goco

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Vicar General's Office <mail@flocknote.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 8:19 AM
To: Justine Goco
Subject: MEMO - RIP - Father Placidus Sander, OSB - Funeral Details



Archdiocese of Vancouver
VICAR GENERAL'S OFFICE

Dear Father and dear Deacon,

This is a follow up to the MEMO that was sent on October 15th, 2021, regarding the death of Father Placidus Sander, OSB, who passed away earlier that morning.

The reception of Father Sander's body in the abbey church will be on Tuesday, October 26th, 2021 at 5:00 pm, which will be followed by Vespers.

The funeral will be on Wednesday, October 27th, 2021 at 2:00 pm. As per the present public health orders, there are no restrictions on the number of people who wish to attend the funeral Mass, however masks, are of course, required. The reception will be in the guesthouse lobby, following the funeral. Those in attendance, will need to wear masks except while eating or drinking.

Let us remember Father Sander in our prayers along with the Benedictine community.

Requiescat in pace.



Sent by Justine Goco

Justine Goco

From: Archbishop J. Michael Miller
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 8:04 AM
To: Justine Goco; Rev. Gary Franken
Subject: FW: Funeral date for Father Placidus

From: Matthew Gerlich
Sent: October 16, 2021 5:45 PM
Subject: Funeral date for Father Placidus

Greetings,

Father Prior has communicated to me the following information about Father Placidus' funeral.

Father Placidus' funeral will be on Wednesday, October 27 at 2:00 p.m.

The reception of the body in the abbey church will be on Tuesday, October 26 at 5:00 p.m., followed by Vespers.

By the present public health orders, it seems that there are no restrictions on attendance at the funeral Mass; masks, of course, are required.

As for the reception afterwards, our present plan is to have it in the guesthouse lobby. Those in attendance, both we and the public, will need to wear masks except while eating or drinking.

Classes, with the exception of Scripture 520, are cancelled on the day of the funeral.

In Christ,

Rev. Matthew Gerlich OSB

Rector



Seminary of Christ the King
PO Box 3310 | Mission BC | V2V 4J5
Tel: 604.826.8975 | Fax: 604.826.8725
www.wcsuniversityabbey.ca

Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is mostly illegible but appears to contain a list or set of instructions.



Archdiocese of Vancouver

VICAR GENERAL'S OFFICE

JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE

4885 Saint John Paul II Way
Vancouver, BC | T: 604-683-0281
V5Z 0G3

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Priests; All Permanent Deacons
CC: All Parishes
FROM: Father Gary Franken, Vicar General
DATE: Saint Teresa of Jesus
October 15, 2021
RE: MEMO – RIP – Reverend Placidus Sander, OSB

I regret to inform you of the death of Father Placidus Sander, OSB, who passed away suddenly this morning. He was 94 years of age.

Father Sander came to the then-Westminster Priory at Deer Lake in 1947 and made his final vows as a Benedictine monk on September 12, 1950 and was ordained a priest on May 22, 1952. His roles at Westminster Abbey and Seminary of Christ the King were many, including: professor; rector; assistant guest master; and choir director.

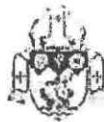
Funeral arrangements are yet to be determined.

Let us remember Father Sander in our prayers along with the Benedictine community.

Requiescat in pace.

Justine Goco

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Vicar General's Office <mail@flocknote.com>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 4:30 PM
To: Archbishop's Office
Subject: MEMO - RIP - Father Placidus Sander, OSB



Archdiocese of Vancouver
VICAR GENERAL'S OFFICE

Dear Father and dear Deacon,

I regret to inform you of the death of Father Placidus Sander, OSB, who passed away suddenly this morning. He was 94 years of age.

Father Sander came to the then Westminster Priory at Deer Lake in 1947 and made his final vows as a Benedictine monk on September 12, 1950 and was ordained a priest on May 22, 1952. His roles at Westminster Abbey and Seminary of Christ the King were many, including: professor; rector; assistant guest master; and choir director.

Funeral arrangements are yet to be determined.

Let us remember Father Sander in our prayers along with the Benedictine community.

Requiescat in pace.



Sent by Justine Goco

From: Justine Goco <justine.goco@flocknote.com>
To: Archbishop's Office <archbishop@flocknote.com>

To ensure that these emails reach you, we have included the email address of the sender in the address book or safe senders list.

Justine Goco

From: Rev. Gary Franken
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 2:35 PM
To: Justine Goco; Natalie Aguilar
Subject: Fwd: Passing of P. Placidus Sander, osb

Ladies,

Something needs to go out about Fr. Placidus' passing.

It will be a case of 'less is more' for now; we can see what more we send out next week when we know the arrangements.

Thanks,
Fr. Gary.

Very Reverend Gary Franken
Vicar General
Archdiocese of Vancouver

(604) 683-0281 ext. 50444
rcav.org

The Archdiocese of Vancouver acknowledges that the land on which we gather and work is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətał (Tsilwilt) Nations.

From: Benedict Lefebvre <prior@westminsterabbey.ca>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 11:31:13 AM
To: Rev. Gary Franken <gfranken@rcav.org>
Subject: Passing of P. Placidus Sander, osb

Dear Father Gary,

You may have the news already: our dear Father Placidus passed away this morning rather suddenly. He had been at daily Mass and then at breakfast as usual, then around 8:30 a.m. he seems to have had some event and after Father Abbot anointed him, he went to the Lord a few minutes later.

Could you communicate the fact to the clergy of the archdiocese and commend him to their prayers?

P. Placidus was born on March 10, 1927, came to the then-Westminster Priory at Deer Lake in 1947, made his final vows as a Benedictine monk on September 12, 1950, and was ordained a priest on May 22, 1952.

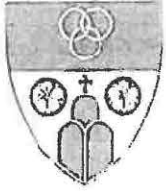
His roles in Westminster Abbey and the Seminary of Christ the King were many, including professor, rector, assistant guestmaster, and choir director.

Please keep him in your prayers,

P. Benedict, osb

P. Benedict Lefebvre OSB

Prior



Westminster Abbey

PO Box 3310 | Mission BC | V2V 4J5
Tel: 604.826.8975 | Fax: 604.826.8725
www.westminsterabbey.ca

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[Abuse Crisis - Clergy Sexual Abuse Report](#)

June 2021 Implementation Working Group Update

June 28, 2021

[INTRODUCTION](#)

[31 RECOMMENDATIONS](#)

[PROGRESS SINCE THE DECEMBER 2020 UPDATE](#)

[OBJECTIVES STILL OUTSTANDING](#)

[CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES SECTION](#)

[NAMES FOR PUBLICATION](#)

[CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT REGARDING CLERICAL SEXUAL ABUSE](#)

[CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT REGARDING ABUSE AT VANCOUVER COLLEGE AND ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE](#)

[ADDITIONAL CASES](#)

[CONCLUSION](#)

[HOW DO YOU RECOGNIZE CLERICALISM?](#)

[Click here to download the June 2021 IWG Update](#)

Introduction

With the goal of providing better care for victims, improving reporting systems and increasing transparency, Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, is committed to publishing regular updates regarding the implementation of the recommendations received from the [Case Review Committee](#) (CRC) in late 2019. The [Implementation Working Group](#) ("IWG") oversees this work and will publish progress reports each June and November for the foreseeable future.

The process is bearing fruit. This report shares both positive developments as well as ongoing challenges. In addition, we have been sharing our resources and strategies with other dioceses in Canada.

This work is critical to helping people heal who have been deeply affected by clergy abuse. The Church is firmly committed to addressing clerical sexual abuse and underlying contributing factors fully and honestly. Our goal is to put an end to clerical sexual abuse.

31 Recommendations

You can find the full text of all the recommendations at rcav.org/abuse-crisis/abuse-report/2019#recommendations.

Progress Since the December 2020 Update

1. The Office of Victim/Survivor Support began operating on July 20, 2020. Since then, services have been expanded to include the Dioceses of Victoria, Kamloops, and Prince George. See [Recommendation #1](#).
2. The reconstituted Review Board is chaired by Suzanne Nixon and comprises a majority of lay people. More on the Board's members and mandate will be available in an upcoming publication. See [Recommendation #2](#).
3. All files related to clerical sexual abuse are now centrally located at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre and can be accessed by the lay Chair of the Review Board. See [Recommendation #6](#).
4. The IWG and the Archbishop have committed to publishing progress reports twice a year in June and November. See [Recommendation #7](#).
5. Updated Safe Environment policies took effect on March 31, 2021 and can be reviewed [here](#). See [Recommendation #12](#).
6. All allegations of sexual misconduct involving a cleric and an adult are now forwarded to the Review Board. See [Recommendation #16](#).
7. Fr. Bryan Duggan, a priest of the Archdiocese, recently completed his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and will begin to form a team of trauma-informed clerics. See [Recommendation #18](#).
8. The ad hoc Seminary Committee continues to discern, discuss, and propose recommendations related to the application and formation process of archdiocesan seminarians. The Committee consists of ten members and includes lay persons and religious, both male and female, and clerics. See [Recommendation #19](#).
9. A committee to address clericalism began meeting in March 2021. Its task is to study this recommendation and propose practical measures to address clericalism in our local Church. The committee consists of 8 members and includes lay, religious, and clergy, including two members of the CRC that made the original recommendation. See [Recommendation #25](#).
10. The CCCB, through the work of its Standing Committee for Responsible Ministry and the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Persons, recently launched a third-party reporting service through [Clearview](#). This system receives allegations of abuse and/or coverups by bishops in Canada. See [Recommendation #28](#).

Objectives Still Outstanding

1. At this time, archdiocesan staff are filling the role of accompanying those

individuals who report abuse, based on the victim/survivor preferences. Reporters guide the process in terms of the frequency of communication desired, what resources they wish or need to access, and ongoing updates. The continued development and implementation of a comprehensive Victim/Survivor Care plan is ongoing. See [Recommendation #4](#).

2. The Archdiocese does not yet have access to files of all priests from religious communities who have served here. See [Recommendation #6](#).
3. A review of archdiocesan files of all clerics will be undertaken by a third party. This will include a review of priests from religious who served in the Archdiocese. See [Recommendation #10](#).
4. A system for annual performance reviews has not been completed or implemented. See [Recommendation #15](#).
5. (While almost all known abusers are deceased), no known living abusers have accepted the offer of a support and accountability circle. See [Recommendation #22](#).
6. Based on the model developed by the Diocese of Victoria, we are preparing for listening circles to commence once parishes are fully re-opened after the pandemic. See [Recommendation #23](#).

Corrections and Updates Section

The IWG wishes to correct the November 2019 and 2020 reports that implied the CRC reviewed all the clerical sexual abuse related files. This was not the case. Some members of the Committee reviewed the files and orally presented summaries covering a selection of the files and the information therein to the Committee members. Other issues involving abusive forms of misconduct were only discussed in general terms.



Update: Fr. Johannes Holzapfel

Fr. Johannes Holzapfel was born in Germany on August 2, 1923 and ordained in 1953, after partial studies in Germany and one year at Christ the King Seminary. He served at the following parishes and in the following roles in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

1. Corpus Christi, Vancouver: 1953
2. St. Patrick's, Vancouver: 1955
3. St. Joseph's, Powell River: 1955–1956
4. Left the Archdiocese to go to Mexico for missionary work
5. St. Margaret's, Ocean Falls: 1958–1960
6. St. Patrick's, Vancouver: 1960
7. Our Lady of Good Hope, Hope: 1960–1963

8. St. Joseph's, Squamish: 1963
9. Medical leave after refusal of assignment
10. St. John the Apostle, Vancouver: 1965-1966
11. St. Margaret's, Ocean Falls: 1966-1967
12. He requested a leave of absence and release from his priestly vows in Jan 1967.
The leave of absence was granted but the release from vows was not considered until after the leave ended.
13. He worked as a volunteer at St. Mary's, Vancouver and at Youville Residence, Vancouver from 1967 until 1972.
14. St. Ann's, Abbotsford: 1972-1974
15. He returned to Germany in 1974. He worked in Paderborn and Aachen but was still incardinated in Vancouver.

Holzapfel died in Germany in early 1997. One victim/survivor came forward in the 1990's and another in 2007. Both reports related to his time spent in St. Mary's Parish, Vancouver, in the 1960s and included allegations of physical and sexual abuse of a minor. The Archdiocese provided counselling to, and reached financial settlements with, the victim/survivors. In addition, a member of the CRC received an allegation from someone reporting abuse while Holzapfel was in Port Alice BC in the 1950s. The person remembers sharing her experiences with someone at her church in 1986; she reported feeling dismissed and even being told that she was vindictive for raising the issue. This person recently died. While the Archdiocese does not have a record of this interaction, we want to share her story.



Update: Paul Blancard

Paul Blancard, formerly a priest in the Archdiocese of Vancouver, was profiled in the 2019 report. In March of 2021, a new lawsuit was brought forward by another person; the case is currently before the Court.

Names for Publication



Fr. Roland Joncas was born in Edmonton and studied to become a Jesuit. When he did not complete his final vows with the Order, he was ordained a priest on June 21, 1957, in Montreal. After a period teaching at a Residential School in Spanish, Ontario he was incardinated in Vancouver in 1962.

He served at the following parishes and in the following roles in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

1. Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver: 1961
2. St. Mary's, Chilliwack: 1962 to 1963
3. St. Joseph's, Powell River: 1963 to 1965
4. Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey: 1966-1971
5. St. Joseph's, Vancouver: 1971-1977
6. Chaplain at Mount St. Joseph's Hospital, Vancouver: 1977-1980
7. Chaplain at the Port of Vancouver: 1980-1997

In 1992, a woman reported to the Archdiocese that Fr. Joncas had sexually abused her when she was about 10 years old, around 1963-64. The Archdiocese provided counselling for her. Fr. Joncas died in 2000. Around 2002, the Archdiocese became aware of another allegation regarding a potential male victim, who was also around 10 years old at the time of the reported abuse.



Br. Edward Patrick English, CFC was born on August 15, 1948 and became a Christian Brother in 1970s. He served at the following parishes and in the following roles in the Vancouver area:

1. Sunday School Teacher at St. Michael's Parish, Burnaby: 1978
2. Teacher at STM in Burnaby and VC in Vancouver: 1976 to 1987

In 1989, Br. English was charged with abuse of minors at St. Thomas More Collegiate. During the proceedings, it was proven that his previous abuse at the Mount Cashel orphanage had been known to local government and law enforcement, but all parties reached an agreement requiring Br. English to leave the province. He received "treatment" before the Christian Brothers transferred him to BC, without informing the Archdiocese of his past abuse. He taught here up until the time of his arrest. The Archdiocese of Vancouver did not appoint or employ teachers at schools run by the Christian Brothers. A new class action lawsuit related to sexual abuse at certain Christian Brothers schools was filed in February 2021 and is currently before the courts. A further update on this class action is provided below.



Fr. Frederick Robert Nielsen was born on May 10, 1935, and ordained June 2, 1962, as a priest of the Archdiocese of Edmonton. Following his education at Columbia University, he served in the following role in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

1. Counsellor at local high schools from 1967 to 1972.

In late 2013 the Archdiocese received complaints from a total of five individuals alleging sexual abuse in the 1971/72 school year. As a result, Fr. Nielsen entered into a settlement agreement and immediately ceased his ministry.



Fr. Duncan George Goguillot was born in Edmonton on May 16, 1934, and ordained June 11, 1960. He served at the following parishes in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

- Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver: 1960
- St. Patrick's, Vancouver: July 3, 1960
- St. Mary's, Chilliwack: August 1960
- Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver: Sept. 14, 1961
- St. Andrew's, Vancouver: Sept. 17, 1962
- Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey: Sept 14, 1963
- Immaculate Conception, Delta: July 4, 1964
- St. Mary's, Chilliwack: July 18, 1969 – April 22, 1979

Fr. Goguillot died in 2018. In March of 2020, a letter alleging abuse by Fr. Goguillot was received. In March of 2021, a lawsuit detailing the allegations was filed. The reporting person was an 11–13-year-old boy at the time. Due to this case being before the Court, no further comment can be made at this time.



Fr. William Crawford Mendenhall was born in Oakland, California on November 18, 1948 and ordained at Holy Rosary Cathedral on June 24, 1983. He served at the following parishes and in the following roles in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

1. Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver: 1983-1986
2. Director, Catechetics Office, Vancouver: 1983-1986
3. St. Anthony of Padua, Vancouver: 1986-1992
4. Chaplain to Missionaries of Charity: 1988
5. Russian Mission: January 1992
6. St. Stephen's, North Vancouver: 1992-1993
7. Chaplain to St Thomas Aquinas High School, North Vancouver: 1992-1993
8. Mission to Russia: August 1993
9. St. Ann's, Abbotsford: 1995-1997
10. Director of Religious Instruction at St. John Brebeuf RSS, Abbotsford: 1996

11. MISSION TO RUSSIA: 1777-1778**12. Sts. Joachim & Ann, Aldergrove: 1999-2003**

In 1998, the Archdiocese received an allegation of “sexual misconduct involving an adult man.” When confronted with this allegation, Fr. Mendenhall admitted that “it might have occurred.” Counselling and a financial settlement were provided, and Fr. Mendenhall agreed to certain restrictions in his ministry. In 2003, a second man came forward with a similar allegation. After an investigation, Fr. Mendenhall admitted to the facts of the case and resigned from Sts. Joachim and Ann. He abruptly ceased prescribed “assessment and treatment”, abandoned his ministry and left the country shortly after. He was laicized in 2019 after having been absent from his post for years.

Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Clerical Sexual Abuse

In 2020, the Archdiocese was served with a Notice of a Class Action lawsuit on behalf of any victims of clerical sexual abuse during a time horizon which is yet to be determined. While a Fr. Conaghan was named, the Archdiocese has not received any additional complaints regarding this priest and people participating in this legal action will be able to name other clergy members. We will provide updates as the class is defined and the suit progresses.

Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Abuse at Vancouver College and St. Thomas More Collegiate

In 2021, the Archdiocese was served with a Notice of a Class Action lawsuit on behalf of any victims of sexual abuse by the Christian Brothers who worked at their two local high schools between the years of 1963 to present. Br. Edward English (profile above) was named as an accused and other Brothers may be added. The Archdiocese has never operated these two schools. The action is currently before the courts. We will provide updates as the suit progresses.

Additional Cases

Two additional cases are in settlement discussions and legal processes are ongoing. We will not disclose the alleged offenders at this time out of respect for the victim/survivors’ process. We anticipate addressing these cases in the November 2021 report.

Conclusion

We recognize that priests who continued in ministry after the receipt of allegations should not have been allowed to do so. Thanks to the work of the CRC and other groups, we have been able to improve care for victim/survivors and implement better systems to create safe environments for everyone in our communities. We understand that we have much work to do in order to regain trust and make greater progress in our communities.

As an ongoing part of the work against clerical sexual abuse, the Archdiocese continues to encourage victims of abuse to come forward and report their experiences to the Office of Victim/Survivor Support which can be reached at (604) 363-7338 or at 1-800-968-3146 as well as to civil authorities. We thank the survivors who have spoken out. We recognize how much courage it takes and we appreciate your strength in shedding light on this history.

If you would like to share ideas regarding how we can better care for victim/survivors, please feel free to write us at CareForVS@rcav.org.

[Click here to download the 2021 Implementation Working Group Update](#)

How do you recognize clericalism?

In November of 2019, the [Report on Clerical Sexual Abuse](#) made 31 recommendations for preventing and investigating sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. In particular, [recommendation #25](#) called for "...the immediate establishment of a leadership team comprised of lay, religious and clergy to prayerfully explore the development of an Archdiocese-wide plan" to combat "the inherent evil of clericalism" within both the laity and clergy of the Archdiocese.

This recommendation requires the development of "...a strategy for developing and maintaining a Church which more fully reflects the spirit of Vatican II (*Lumen gentium* and *Apostolicam actuositatem*, for example)" as individuals, communities, and as an institution.

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To ensure that it has clear focus, the committee has come up with a working definition of clericalism:

Clericalism is a misplacement of responsibility with little or no accountability of the ordained ministers and lay faithful in the people God. This leads the faithful and ordained clergy to expect that ordained ministers are better than and should rule over everyone else among the People of God which further leads to abuses of power and hinders the universal call to holiness and the mission of evangelization.

The committee plans to make practical suggestions that will help our local church establish right relationship between the clergy and laity so that we can all better work together to build God's Kingdom. In doing so, we must retain what is positive in the

exercise of the priestly vocation and its relationship with the laity while working against attitudes and practices that have led to, among other things, abuse.

Our entire community, the laity and clergy, need to understand that we are all part of the problem – and therefore are all part of the solution. On the one hand, some pastors try to reserve all decisions on all matters to themselves, and, on the other hand, too often the lay faithful let their pastor make all the decisions. Neither is healthy for the life of the Church. Priests should understand that their desire to serve does not mean *doing everything*, that one of the primary responsibilities of leadership is to find, encourage and develop leaders within the parish community. Likewise, the laity cannot avoid the responsibilities proper to their own vocation as baptized Christians.

We recognize that in life, achieving "balance" is fundamental. There have been times in the Church's history where the relationship between the clergy and the laity has become totally unbalanced. We need to recognize that to a significant degree the Church's problems – abuse and other scandals – are a consequence of that imbalance and that it is "our" problem as a church, not simply a problem for the clergy to solve - an attitude which embeds clericalist attitudes even further.

Pope Francis has called for a Church-wide adoption of *solidarity* from top to bottom – papacy to parish, bishop to parishioner, including all clerics in-between. In his August 2018 "Letter to the People of God," Pope Francis defines *solidarity* as the antithesis of *clericalism*: "If, in the past, the response was one of omission, today we want solidarity, in the deepest, most challenging sense, to become our way of forging present and future history....Consequently, the only way we have to respond to this evil [of clericalism] that has darkened so many lives is to experience it as a task regarding all of us as the People of God."

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The Archdiocese of Vancouver acknowledges that the land on which we gather and work is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

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June 2021 Implementation Working Group Update

June 28, 2021

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This work is critical to helping people heal who have been deeply affected by clergy abuse. The Church is firmly committed to addressing clerical sexual abuse and underlying contributing factors fully and honestly. Our goal is to put an end to clerical sexual abuse.

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Holzpfel died in Germany in early 1997. One victim/survivor came forward in the 1990's and another in 2007. Both reports related to his time spent in St. Mary's Parish, Vancouver, in the 1960s and included allegations of physical and sexual abuse of a minor. The Archdiocese provided counselling to, and reached financial settlements with, the victim/survivors. In addition, a member of the CRC received an allegation from someone reporting abuse while Holzpfel was in Port Alice BC in the 1950s. The person remembers sharing her experiences with someone at her church in 1986; she reported feeling dismissed and even being told that she was vindictive for raising the issue. This person recently died. While the Archdiocese does not have a record of this interaction, we want to share her story.



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In 1992, a woman reported to the Archdiocese that Fr. Joncas had sexually abused her when she was about 10 years old, around 1963-64. The Archdiocese provided counselling for her. Fr. Joncas died in 2000. Around 2002, the Archdiocese became aware of another allegation regarding a potential male victim, who was also around 10 years old at the time of the reported abuse.



Br. Edward Patrick English, CFC was born on August 15, 1948 and became a Christian Brother in 1970s. He served at the following parishes and in the following roles in the Vancouver area:

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Fr. Frederick Robert Nielsen was born on May 10, 1935, and ordained June 2, 1962, as a priest of the Archdiocese of Edmonton. Following his education at Columbia University, he served in the following role in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

1. Counsellor at local high schools from 1967 to 1972.

In late 2013 the Archdiocese received complaints from a total of five individuals alleging sexual abuse in the 1971/72 school year. As a result, Fr. Nielsen entered into a settlement agreement and immediately ceased his ministry.



Fr. Duncan George Goguillot was born in Edmonton on May 16, 1934, and ordained June 11, 1960. He served at the following parishes in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

- Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver: 1960
- St. Patrick's, Vancouver: July 3, 1960
- St. Mary's, Chilliwack: August 1960
- Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver: Sept. 14, 1961
- St. Andrew's, Vancouver: Sept. 17, 1962
- Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey: Sept 14, 1963
- Immaculate Conception, Delta: July 4, 1964
- St. Mary's, Chilliwack: July 18, 1969 – April 22, 1979

Fr. Goguillot died in 2018. In March of 2020, a letter alleging abuse by Fr. Goguillot was received. In March of 2021, a lawsuit detailing the allegations was filed. The reporting person was an 11–13-year-old boy at the time. Due to this case being before the Court, no further comment can be made at this time.



Fr. William Crawford Mendenhall was born in Oakland, California on November 18, 1948 and ordained at Holy Rosary Cathedral on June 24, 1983. He served at the following parishes and in the following roles in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

1. Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver: 1983-1986
2. Director, Catechetics Office, Vancouver: 1983-1986
3. St. Anthony of Padua, Vancouver: 1986-1992
4. Chaplain to Missionaries of Charity: 1988
5. Russian Mission: January 1992
6. St. Stephen's, North Vancouver: 1992-1993
7. Chaplain to St Thomas Aquinas High School, North Vancouver: 1992-1993
8. Mission to Russia: August 1993
9. St. Ann's, Abbotsford: 1995-1997
10. Director of Religious Instruction at St. John Brebeuf RSS, Abbotsford: 1996
11. Mission to Russia: 1997-1998
12. Sts. Joachim & Ann, Aldergrove: 1999-2003

In 1998, the Archdiocese received an allegation of "sexual misconduct involving an adult man." When confronted with this allegation, Fr. Mendenhall admitted that "it might have occurred." Counselling and a financial settlement were provided, and Fr. Mendenhall agreed to certain restrictions in his ministry. In 2003, a second man came forward with a similar allegation. After an investigation, Fr. Mendenhall admitted to the facts of the case and resigned from Sts. Joachim and Ann. He abruptly ceased prescribed "assessment and treatment", abandoned his ministry and left the country shortly after. He was laicized in 2019 after having been absent from his post for years.

Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Clerical Sexual Abuse

In 2020, the Archdiocese was served with a Notice of a Class Action lawsuit on behalf of any victims of clerical sexual abuse during a time horizon which is yet to be determined. While a Fr. Conaghan was named, the Archdiocese has not received any additional complaints regarding this priest and people participating in this legal action will be able to name other clergy members. We will provide updates as the class is defined and the suit progresses.

Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Abuse at Vancouver College and St. Thomas More Collegiate

In 2021, the Archdiocese was served with a Notice of a Class Action lawsuit on behalf of any victims of sexual abuse by the Christian Brothers who worked at their two local high schools between the years of 1963 to present. Br. Edward English (profile above) was named as an accused and other Brothers may be added. The Archdiocese has never operated these two schools. The action is currently before the courts. We will provide updates as the suit progresses.

Additional Cases

Two additional cases are in settlement discussions and legal processes are ongoing. We will not disclose the alleged offenders at this time out of respect for the victim/survivors' process. We anticipate addressing these cases in the November 2021 report.

Conclusion

We recognize that priests who continued in ministry after the receipt of allegations should not have been allowed to do so. Thanks to the work of the CRC and other groups, we have been able to improve care for victim/survivors and implement better systems to create safe environments for everyone in our communities. We understand that we have much work to do in order to regain trust and make greater progress in our communities.

As an ongoing part of the work against clerical sexual abuse, the Archdiocese continues to encourage victims of abuse to come forward and report their experiences to the Office of Victim/Survivor Support which can be reached at (604) 363-7338 or at 1-800-968-3146 as well as to civil authorities. We thank the survivors who have spoken out. We recognize how much courage it takes and we appreciate your strength in shedding light on this history.

If you would like to share ideas regarding how we can better care for victim/survivors, please feel free to write us at CareForVS@rcav.org.

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to local government and law enforcement, but all parties reached an agreement requiring Br. English to leave the province. He received "treatment" before the Christian Brothers transferred him to BC, without informing the Archdiocese of his past abuse. He taught here up until the time of his arrest. The Archdiocese of Vancouver did not appoint or employ teachers at schools run by the Christian Brothers. A new class action lawsuit related to sexual abuse at certain Christian Brothers schools was filed in February 2021 and is currently before the courts. A further update on this class action is provided below.



Fr. Frederick Robert Nielsen

Fr. Fred Nielsen was born on May 10, 1935, and ordained June 2, 1962, as a priest of the Archdiocese of Edmonton. Following his education at Columbia University, he served in the following role in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

1. Counsellor at local high schools from 1967 to 1972.

In late 2013 the Archdiocese received complaints from a total of five individuals alleging sexual abuse in the 1971/72 school year. As a result, Fr. Nielsen entered into a settlement agreement and immediately ceased his ministry.



Fr. Duncan George Goguillot

Fr. Duncan George Goguillot was born in Edmonton on May 16, 1934, and ordained June 11, 1960. He served at the following parishes in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

1. Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver: 1960
2. St. Patrick's, Vancouver: July 3, 1960
3. St. Mary's, Chilliwack: August 1960
4. Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver: Sept. 14, 1961
5. St. Andrew's, Vancouver: Sept. 17, 1962
6. Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey: Sept 14, 1963
7. Immaculate Conception, Delta: July 4, 1964
8. St. Mary's, Chilliwack: July 18, 1969 – April 22, 1979

9. Suspended in 1979

Fr. Goguillot died in 2018. In March of 2020, a letter alleging abuse by Fr. Goguillot was received. In March of 2021, a lawsuit detailing the allegations was filed. The reporting person was an 11-13-year-old boy at the time. Due to this case being before the Court, no further comment can be made at this time.



Fr. William Crawford Mendenhall

Fr. Mendenhall was born in Oakland, California on November 18, 1948 and ordained at Holy Rosary Cathedral on June 24, 1983. He served at the following parishes and in the following roles in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

1. Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver: 1983-1986
2. Director, Catechetics Office, Vancouver: 1983-1986
3. St. Anthony of Padua, Vancouver: 1986-1992
4. Chaplain to Missionaries of Charity: 1988
5. Russian Mission: January 1992
6. St. Stephen's, North Vancouver: 1992-1993
7. Chaplain to St Thomas Aquinas High School, North Vancouver: 1992-1993
8. Mission to Russia: August 1993
9. St. Ann's, Abbotsford: 1995-1997
10. Director of Religious Instruction at St. John Brebeuf RSS, Abbotsford: 1996
11. Mission to Russia: 1997-1998
12. Sts. Joachim & Ann, Aldergrove: 1999-2003

In 1998, the Archdiocese received an allegation of "sexual misconduct involving an adult man." When confronted with this allegation, Fr. Mendenhall admitted that "it might have occurred." Counselling and a financial settlement were provided, and Fr. Mendenhall agreed to certain restrictions in his ministry. In 2003, a second man came forward with a similar allegation. After an investigation, Fr. Mendenhall admitted to the facts of the case and resigned from Sts. Joachim and Ann. He abruptly ceased prescribed "assessment and treatment", abandoned his ministry and left the country shortly after. He was laicized in 2019 after having been absent from his post for years.



Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Clerical Sexual Abuse

In 2020, the Archdiocese was served with a Notice of a Class Action lawsuit on behalf of any victims of clerical sexual abuse during a time horizon which is yet to be determined. While a Fr. Conaghan was named, the Archdiocese has not received any additional complaints regarding this priest and people participating in this legal action will be able to name other clergy members. We will provide updates as the class is defined and the suit progresses.

Class Action Lawsuit Regarding Abuse at Vancouver College and St. Thomas More Collegiate

In 2021, the Archdiocese was served with a Notice of a Class Action lawsuit on behalf of any victims of sexual abuse by the Christian Brothers who worked at their two local high schools between the years of 1963 to present. Br. Edward English (profile above) was named as an accused and other Brothers may be added. The Archdiocese has never operated these two schools. The action is currently before the courts. We will provide updates as the suit progresses.

Additional Cases

Two additional cases are in settlement discussions and legal processes are ongoing. We will not disclose the alleged offenders at this time out of respect for the victim/survivors' process. We anticipate addressing these cases in the November 2021 report.

Conclusion

We recognize that priests who continued in ministry after the receipt of allegations should not have been allowed to do so. Thanks to the work of the CRC and other groups, we have been able to improve care for victim/survivors and implement better systems to create safe environments for everyone in our communities. We understand that we have much work to do in order to regain trust and make greater progress in our communities.

As an ongoing part of the work against clerical sexual abuse, the Archdiocese continues to encourage victims

of abuse to come forward and report their experiences to the Office of Victim/Survivor Support which can be reached at (604) 363- 7338 or at 1-800-968-3146 as well as to civil authorities. We thank the survivors who have spoken out. We recognize how much courage it takes and we appreciate your strength in shedding light on this history.

If you would like to share ideas regarding how we can better care for victim/survivors, please feel free to write us at CareForVS@rcav.org.

[Abuse Crisis · Clergy Sexual Abuse Report](#)

December 2021 Implementation Working Group Update

December 6, 2021

[INTRODUCTION](#)[31 RECOMMENDATIONS](#)[PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE JUNE 2021 UPDATE](#)[OBJECTIVES STILL OUTSTANDING](#)[UPDATES SECTION](#)[CONCLUSION](#)[HELPING PRIESTS LISTEN TO SURVIVORS](#)[WHEN TRAUMA HAS DAMAGED YOUR SENSE OF GOD](#)[CANON LAW REVISIONS ON SEXUAL ABUSE 'A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT'](#)

[Click here to download the December 2021 IWG Update](#)

Introduction

In early 2019, Archbishop Michael Miller formed a Clergy Abuse Case Review Committee to look at historical incidents of clergy sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. The Committee was also asked to review systems and policies so as to find opportunities for improvement in how victims/survivors are cared for and how abuse is reported. A detailed report was submitted to the Archbishop and an Implementation Working Group ("IWG") was established to implement the approved recommendations.

While the majority of the original 31 Recommendations submitted have now been implemented, the Archdiocese continues to take action for victims/survivors. Lay-led reviews of any new priest abuse reports are now standard and victims/survivors can now report their experiences to an independent office staffed with social workers and counsellors. We are also tackling root issues like clericalism and the need for transparency to ensure that all community members understand that priests are not in any way above the people they are called to serve.

This update is provided as a part of the IWG's commitment to publishing two Updates per year. While the Archdiocese is receiving fewer new reports of abuse, extensive work still remains to be done in order to better care for victims/survivors and increase awareness among all Catholics about clerical sexual abuse. Complacency can set in, but as a Church we cannot let that happen. Our goal is to put an end to clerical sexual abuse.

Our policies: rcav.org/safe-environment/policies-and-forms

31 Recommendations

Progress Made Since the June 2021 Update

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The Office of Victims/Survivors Support began operating on July 20, 2020, and is operating in the Archdiocese and in three other dioceses around British Columbia. The process is regularly reviewed to ensure that it is victims/survivors centred.

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The new Review Board, composed of a majority of lay people (which includes members who have experienced abuse by a priest), has added new members. The Board now includes the following individuals:

- Suzanne Nixon, Chair

- Sarah Ruggier-Ching
- Lawrence Ho
- Cathy Lins
- Deacon Bruce Fraser
- Gwendolyn Allison
- Father Gary Franken
- Mary Margaret MacKinnon and Krystal Low (rotating legal representatives)

Recommendation #3: Training Archdiocesan speakers

Several people have now been trained to communicate appropriately on these matters.

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The IWG continues to monitor this recommendation and welcomes reports about any awards, recognition or publication of clerical sexual abuse offenders.

Recommendation #12: Revision of policies and procedures

Progress has been made on the development of a user-friendly summary of the reporting process. This information should be posted on-line in early 2022 and will be included in the next Update.

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Recommendation #18: Training trauma-informed clerics

Fr. Bryan Duggan is now working in the Archdiocese as a psychologist. His Doctorate in Clinical Psychology will allow him to form a team of trauma-informed clerics.

Recommendation #20: Training clerics and seminarians

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Objectives Still Outstanding

Recommendation #4: Appointing independent resource person

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A third-party review of archdiocesan files of all clerics, including priests from religious orders who served in the Archdiocese, had begun but was paused due to the pandemic.

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Based on the model developed by the Diocese of Victoria, the Archdiocese of Vancouver is preparing for listening circles and educational sessions to begin once parishes are fully open after the pandemic.

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The Archdiocese honoured All Survivors Day this year by supporting Victims/survivors led efforts locally. Additionally, a day in the Spring of 2022 is being selected for a focus on education and engagement at the Parish level.

Updates Section

Paul Blancard Update



Paul Blancard, formerly a priest in the Archdiocese of Vancouver, was profiled in the 2019 report and again in June of 2021. Recently, an additional person reporting abuse has joined the lawsuit brought forward in March of 2021; the case is currently before the courts.

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Conclusion

We recognize that many situations experienced decades ago would be handled very differently if a report of sexual abuse were received today. Thanks to the work of the Case Review Committee and other groups engaged in this critical issue, the Archdiocese has been able to improve care for victims/survivors and implement better systems to create safer environments for everyone in our communities. As the pandemic winds down, we are also committed to more opportunities for educational sessions, including some with opportunities for victims/ survivors to share their stories.

As an ongoing part of the work against clergy sexual abuse, the Archdiocese continues to encourage victims of abuse to come forward and report their experiences to the Office of Victims/Survivors Support which can be reached at (604) 363-7338 or at 1-800-968-3146. We thank the survivors who have spoken out. We recognize how much courage it takes and we appreciate their strength in shedding light on this history.

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Helping priests listen to survivors

By Nicholas Elbers

At the centre of Dr. Deborah Rodríguez's ministry is a thankful appreciation for God's grace, a survivor's empathy, and the belief that both laity and priests need to develop the skills necessary to help them care for survivors of clerical sexual abuse who might come to the Church searching for healing.

clerical sexual abuse may bring to the attention of the church's leadership.

Many people struggle to approach the topic of clerical abuse because of the painful feelings that it brings up. Part of the team at Hopeful Hearts Ministry near Seattle, Dr. Rodríguez works with laity and clergy to help them understand trauma so they can get past those feelings. In her ministry she works to give both clergy and laity a framework for approaching survivors of sexual abuse that is grounded in sound trauma science.

Rodríguez, who contributed to the book: *Abuse of Trust: Healing from Clerical Sexual Abuse*, gave a talk for priests in the Archdiocese of Vancouver in October to help them learn best practices for receiving survivors' stories of trauma.

Because of the stigma around trauma it can take time for priests to be comfortable discussing clerical abuse, she said. Their vocation can make it difficult for them to approach the topic talk about it, especially when confronted with a victim, like she is.

"Once that a priest knows I am a survivor of clerical abuse, they go into protection mode," she told *The B.C. Catholic*. "There is always an emotional response – [they are] fearful perhaps." Because she is so familiar with priests' responses, she knows she has to "wait and acknowledge" that emotion from them.

Her approach to helping priests engage with and move past their discomfort is rooted in the same principles that guide her work with trauma survivors. She says everyone has experienced some kind of trauma in their past, and when she works with priests she is able to present herself as someone who has experienced pain and suffering, just like them. "Once this sameness becomes the foundation of the conversation there is safety and we can move forward," she said.

When survivors of clerical sexual abuse come to a church looking for healing they often report being retraumatized by the experience. There are a variety of causes, but often it boils down to the fact that priests and other parish workers don't have the skills or experience necessary to deal with a traumatized individual.

"Survivors don't feel safe in a lot of church settings," Rodríguez said. When they disclose their story, "they often are retraumatized because priests and other religious are unfamiliar with how to help a survivor reveal a story."

Rodríguez has advice for those who want to learn to minister to trauma survivors and more fully manifest Christ in their lives. "All you do is receive the story first.

No one has to fix anything, no one has to be a counsellor. You just receive it and sit with it for a while. You sit there with it, then [simply say] 'thank you for sharing that,' then 'what can I do, how can I help?'"

To make the first contact a "safe" experience that leads to healing she recommends using a simple mnemonic device called V.E.E.E.L. Validate, Empathize, Empower, Explain, and Leave the door open.

Some simple phrases and questions illustrate each step of the process: Validate: "I have heard you, thank you for sharing your story with me." Empathize: "I want to understand how you are feeling / I have to be honest, this makes me feel sad/angry/ frustrated." Empower: "I admire your courage. How can I help you?" Explain: "This is what I know/what I can do/ what I cannot do." Leave the door open: "I will be here for you / I will keep you in my prayers."

The goal is to create an environment of safety, which is the most important thing Rodríguez wants people to understand about dealing with people who have suffered trauma. Accepting their stories without judgment or critique goes a long way to helping them feel comfortable, which in turn puts them on the road to healing.

When trauma has damaged your sense of God

By Nicholas Elbers

The latest addition to the Archdiocese of Vancouver's Review Board on clerical sexual abuse cases brings not just her background as a survivor of clerical abuse, but her professional experience working on mental health and homelessness.



Cathy Lins

Cathy Lins' two areas of expertise, which include collaboration with U.S. federal agencies, will be of special value to the board, given that survivors of abuse from Canada's residential school system often find themselves homeless in places like Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Lins is founder of Gather My Sheep, a Wisconsin-based Catholic ministry helping abuse victims find a path back to the Church. In a 2020 interview with *The National Catholic Register*, Lins said "research shows that when people are in distress, church is the first place they turn ... Unfortunately, many parishes aren't equipped to support those

dealing with psychological trauma. I've heard many horror stories of the hurtful treatment people have received at their local parish."

As a result, they turn to yoga, nature, "anything but Jesus Christ and his Church."

It's because of those traumatic incidents that Lins felt inspired to help churches become places of healing. Speaking with *The B.C. Catholic*, Lins recounted a prayer she offered after a speaking engagement where she encountered an overwhelming number of such negative stories. "Lord, there is a reason why you wanted me to see this. You wanted me to see the suffering of your people ... How do we make sure that [your] Church actually works as a healing place?"

Helping Catholics and priests become truly welcoming isn't a problem of will or desire. Many churches train missionaries to go out and welcome people into relationship with Christ. But a common theme emerges when they encounter people with mental illness: "They come back and say, 'we don't know what to do.'"

Lins believes the simplest and best way for Christians to get better at ministering to those with mental health problems is to get "mental health first aid training." The intention is not to save people, but to stabilize them, mentally, so they can get the professional help they might need.

The training focuses on a few core ideas that might be familiar to people with CPR training, including doing a harm assessment by asking, "Is this person a danger to themselves or others?"

In mental health, watching your own mental state, or co-regulating, is important because people react to others' emotions. "If [you are] angry and upset the other person will respond in kind," she said. "You need to bring your emotions down, [bring] your voice and volume down."

Beyond mental health, there are spiritual problems to be tackled as well, Lins said. These issues can be especially acute among survivors of clerical abuse. "Because of their trauma, their sense of God has been damaged."

The sacraments can be especially difficult. Lins recounted how it took time for her to be comfortable with the sacrament of reconciliation, sometimes feeling as though she was being locked in a small room with one of her past tormentors.

In a more positive recollection, Lins described working with a priest who would remove his clerical collar so she would feel more comfortable.

When people are taught to understand the symptoms and realities of mental illness, it helps to destigmatize their problems, Lins said, and by understanding what is happening when someone is in emotional distress, there is less getting in the way of loving them.

Canon law revisions on sexual abuse 'a major improvement'

By B.C. Catholic Staff

Canon law experts in the Archdiocese of Vancouver are welcoming changes to Church legislation that respond with a more victim-centred approach to sexual abuse of children by members of the Church.

The revisions to Book VI of the Code of Canon Law take effect Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and were announced May 31 through Pope Francis' apostolic constitution *Pascite gregem Dei* ("Tend the Flock of God"). The changes were first commissioned by Pope Benedict XVI to improve the effectiveness of the code's penalties for sexual abuse.

The new law says crimes of sexual abuse against minors and vulnerable persons are "offences against human life, dignity, and liberty" rather than breaches of priestly celibacy, as the previous legislation stated.

The revisions, which also provide for canonical penalties for abuse committed by consecrated religious and lay persons in Church leadership positions, are “a major improvement,” said canon lawyer Msgr. Gregory Smith.



Msgr. Gregory Smith

Canonists from across Canada and around the world agree “the changes to the law are welcome and will help the Church respond effectively” to abuse in the Church, said Msgr. Smith.

“The innovations reflect not only recent experience with abuse cases but also the new roles of the laity in Church leadership and administration.”



Dr. Lynda Robitaille

Dr. Lynda Robitaille, Dean of Theology at St. Mark’s College and the new president of the Canon Law Society of America, said establishing that sexual abuse crimes are not only committed by priests and against minors is “an important focus” of the new law.

The revised law provides canonical sanctions for abuse crimes not only with a minor but also “with a person who habitually has an imperfect use of reason or with one to whom the law recognizes equal protection.”

The revised law provides penalties not only for clergy who commit sexual abuse but also “a member of an institute of consecrated life or of a society of apostolic life, or any one of the faithful who enjoys a dignity or performs an office or function in the Church.”

In a recent presentation to U.S. bishops, Archbishop Charles Scicluna, who also serves as Adjunct Secretary for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, indicated local diocesan bishops will be responsible for treating allegations of clerical sexual misconduct with a vulnerable adult as a canonical crime and prosecuting them as strictly as sexual abuse of minors.

Offences could include coercive sexual harassment of seminarians by priests or formators as well as sexual contact between a priest and someone employed by them or under their pastoral care. “Such cases of clerical sexual misconduct with adults have previously been treated as moral failure, but not canonical crimes,” Robitaille said.

The Canon Law Society of America expressed gratitude for the revisions, saying the changes were needed.

“This reinvigoration of canon law is a welcome necessity to our member canonists’ work on behalf of the Church and will be, as the Holy Father says, an instrument for the good of souls,” said Msgr. C. Michael Padazinski, former president of the canon law society.

The revised Book VI was announced on Monday, May 31, through Pope Francis’ apostolic constitution *Pascite gregem Dei* (“Tend the Flock of God”). The revisions were first commissioned by Pope Benedict XVI to improve the efficacy of the code’s penal sanctions.

Father Joseph Le, the Judicial Vicar for the Archdiocese, Father Mark Gazin of the Marriage Tribunal, Deacon Bruce Fraser of the Archdiocesan Review Board, and Msgr. Smith have been taking part in webinars on the revised penal law presented by St. Paul University’s canon law faculty.

With Catholic News Agency files.

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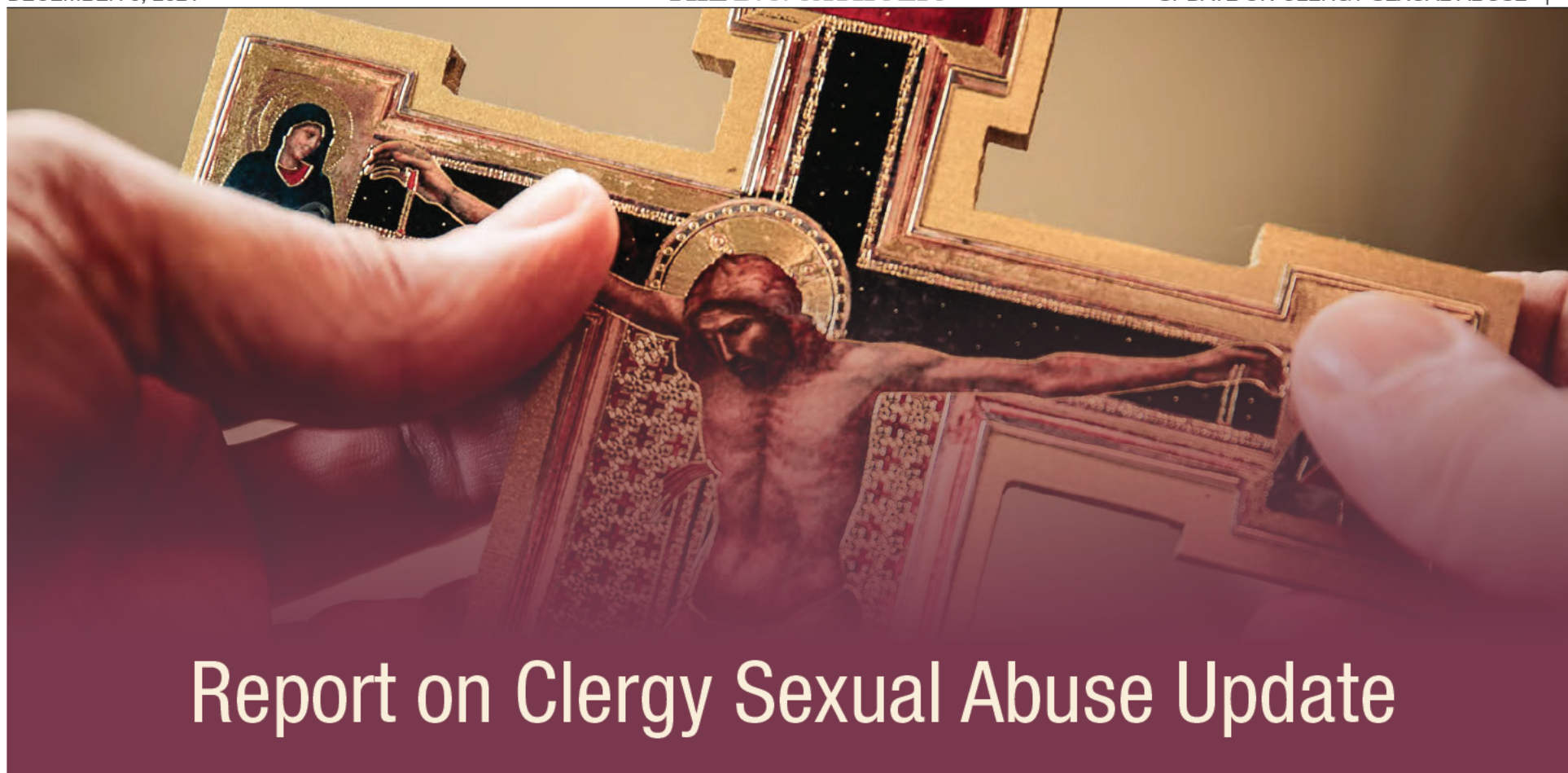
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Report on Clergy Sexual Abuse Update

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31 Recommendations

2019 Report on Clergy Sexual Abuse

<https://rcav.org/abuse-crisis/abuse-report/2019>

2020 Update Report on Clergy Sexual Abuse

<https://rcav.org/abuse-crisis/abuse-report/2020>

June 2021 Implementation Working Group Update

<https://rcav.org/abuse-crisis/abuse-report/2021-june>

You can find the full text of the original recommendations at rcav.org/abuse-crisis/abuse-report/2019#recommendations

Progress Made Since the June 2021 Update

Recommendation #1: Establishing a complaint Intake Office

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By Nicholas Elbers

At the centre of Dr. Deborah Rodríguez's ministry is a thankful appreciation for God's grace, a survivor's empathy, and the belief that both laity and priests need to develop the skills necessary to help them care for survivors of clerical sexual abuse who might come to the Church searching for healing.

Many people struggle to approach the topic of clerical abuse because of the painful feelings that it brings up. Part of the team at Hopeful Hearts Ministry near Seattle, Dr. Rodríguez works with laity and clergy to help them understand trauma so they can get past those feelings. In her ministry she works to give both clergy and laity a framework for approaching survivors of sexual abuse that is grounded in sound trauma science.

Rodríguez, who contributed to the book: *Abuse of Trust: Healing from Clerical Sexual Abuse*, gave a talk for priests in the Archdiocese of Vancouver in October to help them learn best practices for receiving survivors' stories of trauma.

Because of the stigma around trauma it can take time for priests to be comfortable discussing clerical abuse, she said. Their vocation can make it difficult for them to approach the topic



Priests and other parish workers often don't have the skills or experience necessary to deal with survivors of clerical sexual abuse, says Dr. Deborah Rodríguez. "Survivors don't feel safe in a lot of church settings."

talk about it, especially when confronted with a victim, like she is.

"Once that a priest knows I am a survivor of clerical abuse, they go into protection mode," she told *The B.C. Catholic*. "There is always an emotional response - [they are] fearful perhaps." Because she is so familiar with priests' responses, she knows she has to "wait and acknowledge" that emotion from them.

Her approach to helping priests engage with and move past their discomfort is rooted in the same principles that guide her work with trauma survivors. She says everyone has experienced some kind of trauma in their past, and when she works with priests she is able to present herself as someone who has experienced pain and suffering, just like them. "Once this sameness becomes the foundation of

the conversation there is safety and we can move forward," she said.

When survivors of clerical sexual abuse come to a church looking for healing they often report being re-traumatized by the experience. There are a variety of causes, but often it boils down to the fact that priests and other parish workers don't have the skills or experience necessary to deal with a traumatized individual.

"Survivors don't feel safe in a lot of church settings," Rodríguez said. When they disclose their story, "they often are re-traumatized because priests and other religious are unfamiliar with how to help a survivor reveal a story."

Rodríguez has advice for those who want to learn to minister to trauma survivors and more fully manifest Christ in their lives. "All you do is receive the story first.

No one has to fix anything, no one has to be a counselor. You just receive it and sit with it for a while. You sit there with it, then [simply say] 'thank you for sharing that,' then 'what can I do, how can I help?'"

To make the first contact a "safe" experience that leads to healing she recommends using a simple mnemonic device called V.E.E.E.L. Validate, Empathize, Empower, Explain, and Leave the door open.

Some simple phrases and questions illustrate each step of the process: Validate: "I have heard you, thank you for sharing your story with me." Empathize: "I want to understand how you are feeling / I have to be honest, this makes me feel sad/angry/frustrated." Empower: "I admire your courage. How can I help you?" Explain: "This is what I know/what I can do/what I cannot do." Leave the door open: "I will be here for you / I will keep you in my prayers."

The goal is to create an environment of safety, which is the most important thing Rodríguez wants people to understand about dealing with people who have suffered trauma. Accepting their stories without judgment or critique goes a long way to helping them feel comfortable, which in turn puts them on the road to healing. □

When trauma has damaged your sense of God

By Nicholas Elbers

The latest addition to the Archdiocese of Vancouver's Review Board on clerical sexual abuse cases brings not just her background as a survivor of clerical abuse, but her professional experience working on mental health and homelessness.

Cathy Lins' two areas of expertise, which include collaboration with U.S. federal agencies, will be of special value to the board, given that survivors of abuse from Canada's residential school system often find them-



Cathy Lins

selves homeless in places like Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Lins is founder of Gather My

Sheep, a Wisconsin-based Catholic ministry helping abuse victims find a path back to the Church. In a 2020 interview with *The National Catholic Register*, Lins said "research shows that when people are in distress, church is the first place they turn ... Unfortunately, many parishes aren't equipped to support those dealing with psychological trauma. I've heard many horror stories of the hurtful treatment people have received at their local parish."

As a result, they turn to yoga, nature, "anything but Jesus

Christ and his Church."

It's because of those traumatic incidents that Lins felt inspired to help churches become places of healing. Speaking with *The B.C. Catholic*, Lins recounted a prayer she offered after a speaking engagement where she encountered an overwhelming number of such negative stories. "Lord, there is a reason why you wanted me to see this. You wanted me to see the suffering of your people ... How do we make sure that [your] Church actually works as a healing place?"

Helping Catholics and priests

become truly welcoming isn't a problem of will or desire. Many churches train missionaries to go out and welcome people into relationship with Christ. But a common theme emerges when they encounter people with mental illness: "They come back and say, 'we don't know what to do.'"

Lins believes the simplest and best way for Christians to get better at ministering to those with mental health problems is to get "mental health first aid training." The intention is not to save people, but to stabilize them,

Continued on Page 13

Canon law revisions on sexual abuse 'a major improvement'

By B.C. Catholic Staff

Canon law experts in the Archdiocese of Vancouver are welcoming changes to Church legislation that respond with a more victim-centred approach to sexual abuse of children by members of the Church.

The revisions to Book VI of the Code of Canon Law take effect Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and were announced May 31 through Pope Francis' apostolic constitution *Pascite gregem Dei* ("Tend the Flock of God"). The changes were first commissioned by Pope Benedict XVI to improve the effectiveness of the code's penalties for sexual abuse.

The new law says crimes of sexual abuse against minors and vulnerable persons are "offences against human life, dignity, and liberty" rather than breaches of priestly celibacy, as the previous legislation stated.

The revisions, which also provide for canonical penalties for abuse committed by consecrated religious and lay persons in Church leadership positions, are "a major improvement," said canon lawyer Msgr. Gregory Smith.

Canonists from across Canada and around the world agree "the changes to the law are welcome and will help the Church re-



Lynda Robitaille

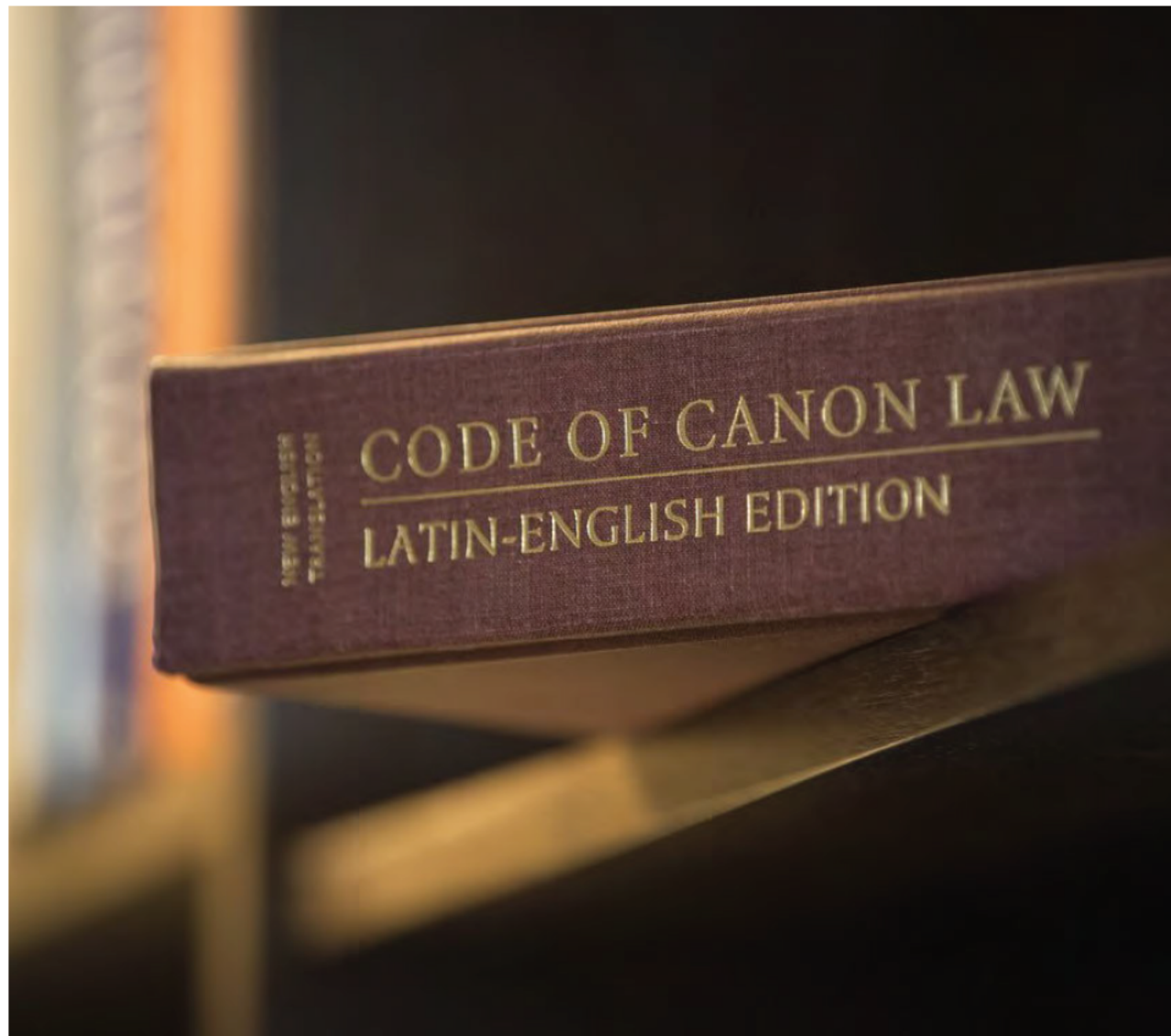


Msgr. Gregory Smith

spond effectively" to abuse in the Church, said Msgr. Smith.

"The innovations reflect not only recent experience with abuse cases but also the new roles of the laity in Church leadership and administration."

Dr. Lynda Robitaille, Dean of Theology at St. Mark's College and the new president of the Canon Law Society of America, said establishing that sexual



CNS photo/Nancy Phelan Wiehcek

Changes to the Church's Code of Canon Law provide penalties for sexual abuse not only by priests but religious and lay people in Church leadership.

abuse crimes are not only committed by priests and against minors is "an important focus" of the new law.

The revised law pro-

vides canonical sanctions for abuse crimes not only with a minor but also "with a person who habitually has an imperfect use of reason or with one to whom the law recognizes equal protection."

The revised law provides penalties not only for clergy who commit sexual abuse but also "a member of an institute of consecrated life or of a society of apostolic life, or any one of the faithful who enjoys a dignity or performs an office or function in the Church."

In a recent presentation to U.S. bishops, Archbishop Charles Scicluna, who also serves as Adjunct Secretary for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, indicated local diocesan bishops will be responsible for treating allegations of clerical sexual misconduct

with a vulnerable adult as a canonical crime and prosecuting them as strictly as sexual abuse of minors.

Offences could include coercive sexual harassment of seminarians by priests or formators as well as sexual contact between a priest and someone employed by them or under their pastoral care. "Such cases of clerical sexual misconduct with adults have previously been treated as moral failure, but not canonical crimes," Robitaille said.

The Canon Law Society of America expressed gratitude for the revisions, saying the changes were needed.

"This reinvigoration of canon law is a welcome necessity to our member canonists' work on behalf of the Church and will be, as the Holy Father says, an instrument for the good of

souls," said Msgr. C. Michael Padazinski, former president of the canon law society.

The revised Book VI was announced on Monday, May 31, through Pope Francis' apostolic constitution *Pascite gregem Dei* ("Tend the Flock of God"). The revisions were first commissioned by Pope Benedict XVI to improve the efficacy of the code's penal sanctions.

Father Joseph Le, the Judicial Vicar for the Archdiocese, Father Mark Gazin of the Marriage Tribunal, Deacon Bruce Fraser of the Archdiocesan Review Board, and Msgr. Smith have been taking part in webinars on the revised penal law presented by St. Paul University's canon law faculty.

With Catholic News Agency files. □

Continued from Page 12
mentally, so they can get the professional help they might need.

The training focuses on a few core ideas that might be familiar to people with CPR training, including doing a harm assessment by asking, "Is this person a danger to themselves or others?"

In mental health, watching your own mental state, or co-regulating, is important because people react to others' emotions. "If [you are] angry and upset the other person will respond in kind," she

said. "You need to bring your emotions down, [bring] your voice and volume down."

Beyond mental health, there are spiritual problems to be tackled as well, Lins said. These issues can be especially acute among survivors of clerical abuse. "Because of their trauma, their sense of God has been damaged."

The sacraments can be especially difficult. Lins recounted how it took time for her to be comfortable with the sacrament of reconciliation, sometimes feeling as though she was

being locked in a small room with one of her past tormentors.

In a more positive recollection, Lins described working with a priest who would remove his clerical collar so she would feel more comfortable.

When people are taught to understand the symptoms and realities of mental illness, it helps to destigmatize their problems, Lins said, and by understanding what is happening when someone is in emotional distress, there is less getting in the way of loving them. □

LW150/07
keep on Placidus
hand

f.

From: Matthew Gerlich <rector.majors@sck.ca>
Sent: March 17, 2022 10:40 AM
Subject: Father Placidus

Dear Seminarians,

The CBC has a disturbing article on-line about Father Placidus. If you have not seen it, it can be found at <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/seminary-sander-catholic-abuse-1.6387136>.

The Abbey is aware, of course, of the current civil proceedings which follow upon Father Placidus' actual and alleged misdeeds in the seminary many years ago. The factual nature of some details in the article is in question. In a criminal trial in December 1997, the charges laid against Father Placidus were dismissed as the judge did not consider the witnesses' testimony against Father Placidus to be convincing.

Our concern is for the victims of these delicts and for their healing. We are also aware of the good of the Church and for all who are scandalized by Father Placidus' actions and for failures on our part to respond in timely and appropriate ways.

Please let me and the other SCK formators know how we can help you deal with this deeply troubling part of our history. I plan to speak to you today to listen and clarify matters.

In Christ,

Rev. Matthew Gerlich OSB

Rector



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[Abuse Crisis - Clergy Sexual Abuse Report](#)

June 2022 Implementation Working Group Update

June 30, 2022

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Introduction

In this semi-annual update, the Implementation Working Group ("IWG") is carrying out the work approved by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, based on the recommendations received from the Case Review Committee ("CRC") in late 2019 (rcav.org/abuse-crisis/abuse-report/2019#crc). The IWG and the Review Board oversee different aspects of the reporting and tracking of abuse related files and the on-going care of victims who are in contact with Church representatives.

The processes currently in place increase accountability while providing a higher level of transparency and care for people reporting occurrences of abuse. This update shares both positive developments as well as ongoing challenges. This work is critical to increasing awareness among Catholics and to helping all people who have been affected by clergy sexual abuse. The Church is firmly committed to addressing this issue and underlying contributing factors fully and honestly.

31 Recommendations

You can find the full text of all the CRC recommendations at rcav.org/abuse-crisis/abuse-report/2019#recommendations.

Progress Since the December 2021 Update

Recommendation #11: An updated version of the Policy on Sexual Misconduct by Clergy is being finalized and a new summary of the reporting of Clergy Sexual Abuse process is now on-line. (rcav.org/abuse-crisis/report-abuse/process)

See Recommendation #14: Parish screening coordinators, priests and other Church employees continue to receive training and resources to help them be more aware of risks and the elements needed for a safe environment. Additional training for the broader Church community is now being developed.

Recommendation #15: Plans are underway to carry out the first Priest performance reviews later this year.

Recommendation #18: Fr. Bryan Duggan, Psy.D. is creating a team of local clerics and designing a program to help priests become more trauma-informed in order to be a support for victim/survivors seeking priest involvement.

Recommendation #19: The ad hoc Seminary Committee has completed its work and recently submitted its report to the Archbishop.

Recommendation #21: To increase transparency, the Archdiocese will provide periodic updates to Sylvia's Site, a victim/survivor-led website.

Recommendation #24: Each parish is receiving prayers of the faithful, paraliturgy ideas and other resources to support a day of remembering for victim survivors.

Recommendation #25: The Clericalism Working group has contributed significantly to the development of the Priest Performance Review commitment and is now focusing on improving the systems of accountability that can be utilized by Parish Pastoral Councils.

Recommendation #26: Since our December 2021 update, women have been named to the following roles in the Archdiocese: Vice-Chancellor, Controller, Director of Parish Support and HR Manager.

Objectives Still Outstanding

Recommendation #4: Internal employees are still developing a more comprehensive Victim/Survivor Care program based on input from mental health and trauma experts, local court Victim Services groups and law enforcement specialists. Our goal is to publish a program summary in the November 2022 update.

Recommendation #10: Several potential 3rd parties experienced in the auditing of historical records have been identified but no selection has been made. To date, only the files of priests with allegations have been fully reviewed.

Recommendation #22: The IWG has not been able to find someone to develop this program nor have any previous offenders been willing to participate.

Names for Publication

Fr. Placidus Sander

Fr. Placidus Sander was born in Oregon in 1927, ordained in 1952 and died in 2021.

He served in the following roles within the geographic boundaries of the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

1. Theology teacher at Christ the King Seminary, Mission BC: 1954-1997
2. Rector of Minor Seminary at Christ the King Seminary, Mission, BC: 1955-1965
3. Vice-rector at Christ the King Seminary, Mission, BC: 1973-1988

In May of 1987, the Papal Nuncio received an anonymous letter signed "Former Seminarians," alleging that Fr. Placidus was known to have been involved in homosexual activities with high school seminarians and asking that he be removed from his role as Vice-rector. Fr. Placidus was removed from that role nine months after the first letter was received.

In 1993, accusations were brought forward by three men who reported to law enforcement that Fr. Placidus had sexually abused them during their time as minor students at the Seminary of Christ the King. The Court acquitted Fr. Placidus of these charges in 1997. During the hearings, Fr. Placidus admitted to a single sexual encounter with "an older seminarian" and to kissing one student twice. Upon learning of this admission, the Benedictines removed Fr. Placidus from classroom teaching but he continued to act as a Spiritual Advisor for Major Seminarians, lead the chant program and work in the kitchen. In 2017, Fr. Placidus retired to the Infirmary of the Abbey, where he lived until his death on October 15, 2021.

A civil claim regarding the same accusations from the 1993 criminal case has recently been filed.

The allegations are being published by the Archdiocese at this time because the criminal proceedings have concluded and the plaintiff(s) with civil claims have requested such publication. The Archdiocese was previously advised, including by law enforcement representatives, not to publish information during the course of the legal proceedings.

Conclusion


Since our last update in December of 2021, we have made progress in the clarified

reporting process and renewed training efforts as parish communities reopened post Covid.

As an ongoing part of the work against clerical sexual abuse, the Archdiocese continues to encourage victims of abuse to come forward and report their experiences to the Office of Victim/Survivor Support at (604) 363-7338 or 1-800-968-3146. We thank the survivors who have spoken out. We recognize how much courage it takes, and we appreciate your strength in shedding light on this history.

If you would like to share ideas regarding how we can better care for victim/survivors, please feel free to write us at CareForVS@rcav.org.


What can we help you find? 



Catholic Vancouver

4885 Saint John Paul II Way Vancouver BC V5Z 0G3
 Phone: [604-683-0281](tel:604-683-0281) Fax: [604-683-4288](tel:604-683-4288)







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