



MEMORANDUM

TO: THE DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

FROM: BISHOP MYRON J. COTTA

DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2020

RE: UPDATED LIST OF CREDIBLY ACCUSED

Brothers and Sisters,

In 2017 the Diocese of Stockton released a list of priests who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors. Today, we are announcing an update and expansion to this list.

It is not enough to merely publish a list and think our work is done. The process of atoning for the horrible sins of clergy sexual abuse requires us to continually revisit this list and seek to make it as thorough as we can. A thorough, honest and open accounting of the sins of the past is necessary if our Church and the many victim-survivors of clergy abuse are to find healing.

Last year, I asked the consulting firm recognized as the leader in this work to review every clergy personnel record in our files – some dating back many decades – to help us identify any reports of suspected abuse that may not be reflected by our review. This firm, Kinsale Management Consulting, is led by [Dr. Kathleen McChesney](#), a former executive assistant director of the FBI and a founding member of the Office of Child Protection at the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Dr. McChesney and her staff had complete access to our files and reviewed more than 1850 clergy files.

This exhaustive process did not reveal any previously unlisted accounts of abuse in the Diocese of Stockton. It did, however, help us realize that we could make key improvements to the scope of our list, as well as to the level of detail provided.

In particular, the updated list now includes 29 priests or religious who served in the Diocese of Stockton and who faced credible accusations elsewhere. Previously, our list included only those clergy or religious who were accused of abuse that occurred within our diocese, or who were accused while serving within our diocese.

Further, the list now includes, where available, information on the dates of the abuse as well as on the disposition or status of the accused. This information may help our parishioners and community understand whether other abuse could have occurred, and so aid in the journey to healing.

Repentance begins with an honest examination and confrontation of sin, and this list is now a stronger part of that critical process.

Dr. McChesney's work also identified one case in which no information could be found to substantiate or lend credibility to the sole accusation the priest faced. It was the recommendation of Dr. McChesney's firm that the name of this priest, Fr. Manual Pascual, be removed from the list. Fr. Pascual



died in 2019. After review by the Diocesan Review Board, Fr. Pascual's name has been removed from the list.

I am grateful to Dr. McChesney and her colleagues, and to our diocesan staff for many hours of hard work to make this list more thorough and accurate. I believe wholeheartedly that this process, this difficult reckoning with the past, is critically important. To me, it must stand as an essential duty for us, alongside the many safeguards we have put in place since 2002 to keep our children and young people safe in our parishes, schools and the programs in which their trust is placed.

I promise to continue this vital work as we seek to atone for the horrible sins of clergy sexual abuse. We will continue to confront the past with honesty and with diligence – the men and women who were brave enough to come forward to tell the truth about their suffering deserve this from us, and much more.

Please join me in praying for the victim-survivors of clergy sexual abuse, now and always. The work of atonement of repentance is an ongoing and necessary part of who we are as the Church of the Body of Christ.

If you or someone you know is a victim of clergy sexual abuse, I encourage you to report this to law enforcement, and to seek help for the pain it has caused. The diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator may be reached through a toll-free number at 855-566-7262 or by clicking [here](#).

The list of credibly accused priests and deacons can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

To read more about the safeguards and protections our diocese has in place to protect the young and vulnerable, click [here](#).

In Peace of Christ,

Bishop Myron J. Cotta