

# Los Angeles Backgrounder

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## Timeline of Los Angeles

### **1917**

Holy See implements codes of conduct criminalizing clerical sexual abuse of minors as Horrendum in the Corpus Juris Canonici of Pope Benedict XIV.

### **1922**

Holy See implements procedures for clerics who solicit sex in the confessional, sending procedure to all Bishops and heads of Religious Orders of Men, Crimens Sollicitationis.

### **1946**

Holy See approves opening Saint John Vianney Center in Downingtown PA to treat priests and religious.

### **1947**

Holy See approves the Servants of the Paraclete as an Institute of Diocesan Rite under the Archbishop of Santa Fe to care for priests and religious.

### **1952**

Bishop Joseph Hart, a Kansas City priest, accused of child sexual abuse.

### **1955**

Father George Pausch is earliest recorded LA priest sent to Servants of the Paraclete. Pausch resides in Jemez Springs, NM the rest of his life and is buried on the grounds.

### **1959**

Parent accuses Father William D. Buckley of exposing himself to two boys. Buckley transferred to St. Charles Borromeo in North Hollywood.

### **1961**

Holy See implements policy on the Selection and Training of Candidates for the Priesthood.

### **1962**

Holy See updates Crimens Sollicitationis and sends to all Bishops and Major Superiors of Men. Father Gerald Fitzgerald s.P. advises Pope John XXIII that Priests who sexually abuse children should be laicized or ordered to a life of prayer and penance.

### **1964**

Anonymous letter received by RCABLA regarding "moral fitness" of Father William D. Buckley at IMC Monrovia, then transferred to Hospital chaplaincy in Torrance for two months.

## **1965**

Father George Neville Rucker - anonymous letter received by RCABLA, Principal reports imprudent relations with school girls".

Father William D. Buckley third transfer in 12 months to assistant hospital chaplain at St. Francis Lynwood.

"Recidivism Among Treated Sex Offenders" by Louise V. Frisbie and Ernest H. Dondis, State of California Department of Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Research and Statistics.

## **1967**

Police investigate Father George Neville Rucker inappropriate touching. Rucker retires in 1987 and prohibited from public ministry in 2002.

## **1969**

Father Gerald Fitzgerald sP is retired as the Servant General of the Servants of the Paraclete.

Father Willebaldo Castro suspended by his Mexican Bishop for an "unspecified moral" charge.

## **1971**

November - Dr. Conrad Baars, "The Role of the Church in the Causation, Treatment and Prevention of the Crisis in the Priesthood".

## **1972**

Father Willebaldo Castro given faculties by RCABLA at Saint Alphonsus in East LA.

## **1973**

Archdiocese of Birmingham, England receive first complaint against Father James Robinson.

## **1975**

January 21 - Father Lynn Caffoe complaint, overly affectionate to some altar boys at St. Calistus in Garden Grove, meeting with Chancellor John Rawden and Father Peter Scannel at Chancery, "Evaluate possible scandal". LAARCH 016159

March 27 - Father Eluterio Ramos - Chancellor Benjamin Hawkes sends Ramos for psychological counseling to Dr. Emery as suggestion by the District Attorney as a result of a recent incident.

October - 16 year old told RCABLA Father Willebaldo Castro molested him.

Holy See publishes "Humana Persona".

## **1976**

January - Father Willebaldo Castro transferred to Saint Mary of the Assumption in Santa Maria.

## **1977**

June 23 - Mother writes to RCABLA that her son was molested by Fr. George Miller on a fishing trip. RCABLA determines it a spiritual problem, promoted to pastor of Guardian Angels in 1981.

## **1980**

Father Willebaldo Castro returns to Mexico.

Father Richard Henry Complaint received by RCABLA.

Holy See approves creation of Saint Luke Institute in Silver Springs, MD

June 21 - Father Richard Allen Henry - report by parishioner that boy living in rectory.

### **1981**

Father Donald Patrick Roemer pleads guilty to Felony child sexual abuse.

### **1982**

First National Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse held in Denver, Colorado, focusing on sexual abuse that occurred within families. Abuse by acquaintances was not on the agenda.

Big Brother Big Sisters of America defined characteristics to "help identify person who might be prone to sexually abuse the children in our program."

### **1983**

January 27 - Father James Ford implicated in a scandal with St. John's Seminary College student, letter from Reverend Sanford Poole C.M. (rector) to Timothy Cardinal Manning.

Chancellor John Rawden receives telephone complaint that Father William Buckley "engages in inappropriate sexual conduct with children".

September - Father Kevin Barmasse is transferred to Diocese of Tucson with former LA auxiliary Bishop Manuel Moreno.

Pope John Paul II promulgates Corpus Juris Canonici continuing the harshest penalties for child sexual abuse of children under 16 years of age. Canon 1395.2

### **1984**

February 11 - 7 Los Angeles Priests implicated in sex scandal with minor females. letter from Archbishop Francisco Cruces, brother of Father Angel Cruces. LAARCH 012040

Boy Scouts of America learn of William Tobiassen, a Scout leader married with three grown children, who was accused of sodomizing a number of youths over a 17-year period. Before the end of July, the national office had received five allegations of abuse against scoutmasters and began to scrutinize its protocols. By 1989 Scouts' parents were receiving a 24-page handbook on protecting their children from abuse.

The misconduct of Father Gilbert Gauthé of Lafayette, Louisiana, focuses public attention on the problem of sexual abuse of minors by priests. NCCB/USCC staff has limited discussions with diocesan personnel about concerns presented by resulting claims. Additional claimants in other dioceses come forward. NCCB/USCC staff act as resource to bishops and their staff who have ultimate responsibility for responding to claims.

Several state legislatures change child abuse reporting statutes.

November 6 - Father Peter Garcia (LA) reported by an Aunt to Archdiocese of Washington D.C. for misconduct with two minor boys.

November 24 - Father Peter Garcia sent to Servants of the Paraclete.

### **1985**

June, sexual abuse claims are discussed at the meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops held in Collegeville, Minnesota, including presentations by a psychiatrist, a lawyer, and a bishop on aspects of the problem.

Father Michael Peterson, president of the St. Luke Institute, Father Thomas Doyle, canon lawyer on the staff of the Apostolic Nunciature, and Attorney Raymond Mouton, lawyer for Father Gauthé, draft a resource paper entitled "The Problem of Sexual Molestation by Roman Catholic Clergy: Meeting the Problem in a Comprehensive and Responsible Manner." This offers the authors' opinions of the potential size of the situation facing the Church in the United States and suggestions on how to deal with it. Father Peterson sends diocesan bishops copies of the text of the entire report as an appendix to a document prepared by the St. Luke Institute with a note urging recipients to "treat the contents of this document as confidential" and saying that it contains "my professional and personal remarks and should not be construed as a national plan" for the bishops' conference.

September - Mahony installed as the Archbishop of Los Angeles.

December 2 - Mahony notified that Father Cristobal Garcia O.P. suspended by his Dominican superior.

December 16 - Mahony notified by Claretian Provincial of Father Lawrence Lovell C.M.F. allegations at San Gabriel Mission, sent to treatment center.

## **1986**

February 2 - criminal complaint filed against Fr. John Salazar Sch.p.

Father James Robinson, diocese of Birmingham, suddenly, transferred to LA.

April 7 - Allegation against Father Matthew Sprouffske O.Carm.

May 23 - Nun reports Father Lynn Caffoe for a boundary violation, Caffoe transferred from St. Bede La Canada to St. James Redondo Beach.

Fall - both Michael Baker (notre dame) and Michael Wempe (St. Patrick's Menlo Park) on sabbatical.

December - Michael Baker self reports to Vicar or Clergy Tom Curry and Archbishop Roger Mahony at a meeting in the Chancery. Police not notified.

## **1987**

February 3 - Father Richard Allen Henry - letter from priest counselor to Curry.

Father John Dawson - Mahony receives anonymous allegation from La Mirada.

March - Nicholas Aguilar Rivera and Father Guillermo Rivera meet with Curry, assigns NAR to Our Lady of Guadalupe Rosehill.

April 1 - Father Gerald Fessard placed on sick leave.

April 2 - Father Gerald Fessard - two seminarians (minors) report Fessard touched their genitals.

May - Michael Wempe's pastor writes Mahony regarding Wempe's "boundary violations".

Nicolas Aguilar Rivera transferred to Saint Agatha's.

June 16 - Father Gerald Fessard, Curry, Sister Judith Murphy, Donald Steier and John McNicholas meet to discuss criminal complaints.

June 23 - Father Gerald Fessard pleads nolo contendere to two counts of child abuse.

July 7 - Vincentian Father Carlos Rene Rodrigues C.M. Report received of inappropriate conduct with minor. Same day sent to Saint Luke Institute.

July - Father Gerald Fessard, Michael Baker, Michael Wempe sent to Servants of the Paraclete

August - George Neville Rucker retires.

September 15-17 Pope John Paul II visits LA for 48 hours.

September 21 - Father Peter Garcia sent to Saint Luke Institute, was at Servants in 1984.

November 17 - U.S. Bishops discuss canonical aspects of clerical sexual abuse of minors, request general counsel, Mark Chopko esq., to prepare public statement.

November 23 - Father James M. Ford - Monsignor George Niederaurer as Rector of the Seminary (now retired Archbishop of San Francisco) called Monsignor John Rawden at the Chancery, Seminarian told Niederaurer that Ford was involved with High School boys and that a former seminarian was dying of aids. LAACH 018056 and 018116.

December - Mahony and Curry receive Fessard, Baker and Wempe reports from Servants of the Paraclete.

December 28 - letter from Curry to Santiago Tamayo, "It is not advisable at all that you return to the United States".

## **1988**

January 8-11 - complaint of NAR received by RCABLA, Curry removes NAR, NAR flees to Mexico, RCABLA notifies Police.

Additional complaints received on Father Richard Henry.

February 9 - Mark Chopko esq. statement on clerical sexual abuse of minors.

March 15 - Father Richard Allen Henry - report from nun to Curry that Henry grabs little boys and hugs them.

March 23 - Mahony receives report on Vincentian Father Carlos Rene Rodrigues C.M.

April - therapist reports Father Michael Nocita alleged child abuse activity.

April 9 - anonymous report again on Father Lynn Caffoe.

April 19 - Father Michael Nocita, memo regarding police investigation.

May 29 Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen of Seattle has letter read at all parishes regarding the sexual abuse of minors by Father James McGreal.

Monsignor Robert Trupia, diocese of Tucson, banned from bringing boys to Saint John's Seminary in Camarillo.

## **1989**

February 29 - Mahony writes Peter Garcia asking him to seek laicization.

Additional complaints about George Miller received.

May - Curry calls Father Lynn Caffoe to the office re minors in his room. LAARCH 016160

May 29 - Father Luis Jaramillo OFM cap. (Columbia), Capuchins report to Curry that Jaramillo accused of abuse while at Saint Lawrence Brindisi parish LA between 1984-88. Jaramillo sent to Servants of the Paraclete in late 1988.

September 22 - Father George Miller - Pastor reports boundary violation with Minor to Curry.

## 1991

March 20 - Father Lynn Caffoe, additional reports from Pastor and Principal to Vicar for Clergy.

March 22 - Vicar for Clergy Timothy Dyer to Mahony, "as you know Father Caffoe has been called into the office (January 1975 and May 1989) for similar activity (minors in room).

Calling 900 numbers. "RMM Very Serious - keep me informed 3-22-91" LAARCH 16164

March 22 - Father Lynn Caffoe - Monsignor Terrence Richey, Father Tim Nichols (Pastor St. James Redondo Beach), Sister Mary Margret (principal of St. James School) plan to confront Caffoe right after Easter.

March 25 - Father Michael Nocita placed on inactive leave.

Additional complaints received on father William D. Buckley.

LA Sheriff investigates Father Richard Henry

U.S. Episcopalian and American Baptist churches establish guidelines to prevent child abuse; other churches follow in the next few years.

June 9 - Father Lynn Caffoe sent to Saint Luke Institute. SLI#12420 Timothy Dyer warns SLI of possible Ephebophilia. LAARCH 016191-016197

August 19 - Father Angel Cruces, inquiry from Diocese of Brooklyn, Dyer responds with public documents and suggestion to call him on the phone. LAARCH 012047

August 22 - Father Richard Allen Henry - LA sheriffs receive allegations of child abuse.

## 1992

In June, Father Canice Connors OFM announces that the roman catholic church has the largest data bank on non-incarcerated sex offenders in the United States.

In November, bishops form a Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry Subcommittee on Child Sexual Abuse by Priests, headed by Franciscan Father Canice Connors, president of t. Luke Institute, to address the subject of sexual abuse by clergy.

At the Bishops' General Meeting, following extensive deliberation, the NCCB/USCC president formally states the **Five Principles**:

1. **Respond promptly** to all allegations of abuse where there is reasonable belief that abuse has occurred.
2. If such an allegation is supported by sufficient evidence, **relieve the alleged offender promptly** of his ministerial duties and refer him for appropriate medical evaluation and intervention.
3. **Comply with the obligations of civil law** as regards reporting of the incident and cooperating with the investigation.
4. **Reach out to the victims** and their families and communicate sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being.

5. Within the confines of respect for privacy of the individuals involved, **deal as openly as possible** with the members of the community

December 12 - Vicar for Clergy receives allegation of child sexual abuse by Father John Dawson

## 1993

January 6 - Father John Dawson sent to Saint Luke Institute.

Father Richard Henry pleads no contest to Lewd conduct with a child.

RCABLA receive letter from Diocese of Birmingham and remove Father James Robinson.

In February the subcommittee on Child Sexual Abuse by Clergy convenes a "Think Tank" in St. Louis, Missouri to address the child sexual abuse by clerics' issue.

May to June discussions with the Holy See culminate in a meeting between Vatican officials and the president and others representatives of the U.S. bishops' conference. The Holy Father issues a June 11 letter to the U.S. bishops condemning child abuse and announcing the formation of a Joint Study Commission to address the NCCB/USCC concerns about canonical problems in dealing with priest abusers.

In June, at the Bishops' General Meeting, a report on the "Think Tank" is presented and discussed at a plenary public session.

The **Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse** (AHCSA) is established, and Bishop John Kinney is named chair.

The AHCSA issues **Restoring Trust Vol. I**, which includes:

- A review of 157 diocesan policies
- A description of 10 treatment centers
- Articles on topics ranging from pedophilia and victims/families to parishes as victims and expectations of treatment

In August at World Youth Day in Denver Pope John Paul II laments the scandals of child sexual abuse by priests, saying he shared his bishops' concern for the victims of these crimes.

Recommending prayer as the best means to address this "evil," the pope quoted from a letter he sent to U.S. bishops two months before: "America needs much prayer -- lest it lose its soul."

Congress passes National Child Protection Act, which establishes national database of convicted criminals, allows child-serving organizations to access records, and shields organizations from liability "solely for failure to conduct a criminal background check."

October 21 - Mahony denies faculties request of Vincentian Father Carlos Rene Rodriguez C.M.

October 29 - Father John Dawson sent from SLI to Servants of the Paraclete.

## 1994

Additional complaints (2) received about Father William D. Buckley.

In April, at the request of U.S. bishops, the Holy See raises canon law's age of majority for the United States from 16 to 18 years of age for acts of sexual abuse of minors. This brings canon law into line with most U.S. civil jurisdictions regarding who is a minor.

September 9 - Father Theodore Ilanos - complaint of sexual molestation received.

September - "Canonical Delicts Involving Sexual Misconduct and Dismissal from the Clerical State". National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

October 4 - Father Theodore Ilanos - Vicar for Clergy receives letter from school mom and teacher regarding bad behavior, exclusion of teenage girls and discussion she had with regional Bishop in mid 1980's.

October 9 - Father Theodore Ilanos sent to Saint Luke Institute.

November 22 - Father James Ford - report of teacher re inappropriate touching of a first grader. "**nothing reportable** but still disturbing". LAARCH 02223

## 1995

April 23 - Father Fidencio Silva M.sp.S. - complaint to Vicar for Clergy.

In November, the AHCSA issues **Restoring Trust Vol. II**, which includes:

- A description of eight treatment centers
- A 42-page presentation on care and concern for victims/survivors
- Articles on topics ranging from the offender and effectiveness of treatment to the insurance viewpoint.

## 1996

In November, the AHCSA issues **Restoring Trust Vol. III**, which reviews the efforts and activities to that point and notes areas still to be addressed.

Additional complaints received on George Miller, RCABLA puts Miller on leave. Start forwarding complaints to police. previous complaints in 1977 and 1989.

## 1997

In June, the AHCSA promotes a video on boundaries issues. This resource was entitled "Priestly Relationships: Freedom through Boundaries" and consisted of a resource guide and a video which addresses ministerial and social situations with priests in six vignettes. The resource was designed for priests' support groups and for a one- or two-day gathering of priests. The development started in December of 1995, and the meetings for this development went on through February 1997.

U.S. Department of Justice releases "Child Sexual Molestation: Research Issues," which summarizes the state of clinical knowledge at the time. Among other things, the document reports that "optimal treatment interventions have yet to be identified"; "cognitive behavior therapy, antidepressant and antiandrogen medication has reduced recidivism among child molesters"; and "[i]ntensive community-based supervision and management of child molesters is essential to reduce sexual victimization rates."



## **1998**

Congress passes Volunteers for Children Act, amending the National Child Protection Act to broaden the access of youth-serving organizations to the criminal records database, even in the absence of implementing state legislation.

## **1999**

AHCSA meetings with victims and victim advisory groups take place.

## **2000**

Former LA auxiliary bishop G. Patrick Ziemann removed as bishop of Santa Rosa to lead a life of prayer and penance at Benedictine monastery in Tucson.

Vicar for Clergy, monsignor Richard Loomis, writes Cardinal Roger Mahony a memo recommending police should be notified regarding Father Michael Stephen Baker. Police are not notified.

Meetings with victims and victim advisory groups continue. A meeting with English-speaking bishops' conferences in Rome also takes place. The AHCSA is reconstituted with a focus on education, prevention, and a review of diocesan policies for child-safe environments.

## **2001**

Servants of the Paraclete facility in Cherry Valley, CA is closed and sold.

Restoring Trust materials are developed for wider dissemination. There is a review of due process issues for returning a priest to ministry or dismissing him from the priesthood after treatment.

On April 30, Pope John Paul II promulgated new substantive and procedural norms that dealt with more serious ecclesiastical crimes, including the sexual abuse of minors by clerics.

## **2002**

On January 6, the Boston Globe launches a series of articles on the case of Father John Geoghan and the handling of clerical sex abuse cases in general in the Archdiocese of Boston, which eventually sparks a national crisis for the Church in the United States.

In March, the AHCSA begins drafting what will eventually become the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. It also drafts several questions to be presented to bishops at regional meetings to get feedback on the most significant issues with which the *Charter* will deal.

April - Carmelites inform Mahony Father Matthew Sprouffske O. Carm. removed from ministry.

April 23 - George Neville Rucker prohibited from public ministry.

On April 22-25, at the Holy See's request, the U.S. Cardinals and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), formerly the NCCB/USCC, officers meet with the heads of the relevant offices of the Roman Curia to discuss the situation.

During April-May the draft of the *Charter* is completed.

On June 14, the bishops adopt the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* by a vote of 239-13 at their General Meeting in Dallas.. Governor Frank Keating of Oklahoma is appointed by Bishop Wilton Gregory as chair of the National Review Board (NRB).

The *Charter*, comprised of 17 Articles and a Statement of Episcopal Commitment, is divided into four major components which closely parallel the Five Principles. The four major components are:

1. *TO PROMOTE* Healing and Reconciliation with Victims/Survivors of Sexual Abuse of Minors
2. *TO GUARANTEE* an Effective Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors
3. *TO ENSURE* the Accountability of Our Procedures
4. *TO PROTECT* the Faithful in the Future

The full *Charter* can be found at: <http://www.usccb.org/ocyp/charter.pdf>.

The bishops also adopt the *Essential Norms*, which are canonical laws for the U.S. for dealing with sexual abuse of minors, and seek Vatican authorization for them. While usually referred to simply as the *Essential Norms*, the document's full title is *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons*. (The dioceses of Eastern Catholic churches are called eparchies.)

## **2003**

February 12 - Father James Ford contacted an Attorney and was at a meeting (unknown from the document produced) and had nothing to say. LAARCH 02222

March 23 - warrants for Father Thomas Marshall C.P. for conduct at St. Paul's in LA. Father Richard Henry laicized.

The Vatican approves the *Essential Norms* for a two-year period with the expectation that revisions would be made in light of experience. In March, the John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York is selected to do research in accord with Article 9 of the *Charter*, which says that the NRB will "commission a descriptive study, with the full cooperation of our dioceses/eparchies, of the nature and scope of the problem" of sexual abuse of minors by clergy within the Catholic Church in the United States.

In June, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops meet in Saint Louis and discuss childhood sexual abuse.

September - Father Michael Wempe arrested.

## **2004**

Mahony creates the "Formation Privilege", unknown in either canon or civil law.

February 17 - "Report to the People of God" released

February 18 - Tod Tamberg, spokesman, tells the NY Times that the Report to the People of God is the "fullest accounting that we can of what we know".

February 28, Mahony writes priests of RCABLA and refuses to produce documents.

Two further reports on sexual abuse of minors by clergy are released:

*A Report on the Crisis in the Catholic Church in the United States*, prepared by the National Review Board and *The Nature and Scope of the Problem of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests and Deacons in the United States*, a research study conducted by the John Jay College

The latter study finds that, for the period of the study, 1950 through 2002, 4,392 priests were accused of sexual abuse and over 10,667 individuals made allegations of sexual abuse by clergy. The estimate of the total costs to the Church for payment to victims, for the treatment of priests, and for legal expenses exceeded \$500,000,000. The study also found that "more abuse occurred in the 1970s than any other decade, peaking in 1980." The study also notes that "Approximately one-third of all allegations were reported in 2002-2003, and two-thirds have been made since 1993. Thus, prior to 1993, only one-third of cases were known to Church officials."

On May 17, the AHCSA and the NRB hold their first joint meeting to discuss future compliance audits of dioceses and other issues related to implementation of the *Charter*. Also discussed were the recommendations by the AHCSA and the NRB to the full Body of Bishops for action at the June meeting in Denver. These recommendations were:

- A proposal regarding possible further analyses of the data gathered for *The Nature and Scope of the Problem of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests and Deacons in the United States*, conducted by the John Jay College
- A Request for Proposal for the study on the causes and context of the sexual abuse crisis
- A process for the recommendation of future potential members of the NRB

June - Father Stephen Hernandez arrested for child abuse at LA county juvenile hall.

June - Father Titian Miani Charged with two counts of lewd acts upon a child.

## **2005**

Father George Miller involuntarily laicized.

In June, the U.S. bishops revise the *Essential Norms* and seek Vatican approval.

On November 15, the NRB selects the John Jay College to conduct a major study of the causes and context of the clergy sex abuse problem. The U.S. bishops had previously committed \$1 million towards the study with further funding being sought from Catholic and other philanthropic groups.

## **2006**

A Supplemental Data Analysis conducted by the John Jay College of the data gathered for its February 2004 report on the "Nature and Scope of the Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Clergy 1950-2002" is released.

In May, the Vatican approves the revised U.S. *Essential Norms* on clergy sex abuse. The *Essential Norms*, which have the force of law in all U.S. dioceses, require each diocese to have written policies on clerical sexual abuse of minors, an assistance coordinator for victims, and a review board that advises the bishop on individual cases and on policy. The *Essential Norms* also spell out detailed procedures for handling any allegation of abuse, for removing from ministry clerics who sexually abuse a minor, and for applying other penalties, including laicization. The revised *Essential Norms* are to remain in effect, the Vatican says, "until otherwise provided," that is, indefinitely.

One change in the revised version was a significant shortening of the description of sexual abuse of a minor to conform more precisely to the legal definition of the crime that is found in the

Latin Church's Code of Canon Law and, for Eastern Catholic churches, the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches. "For purposes of these *Norms*, sexual abuse shall include any offense by a cleric against the Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue with a minor as understood in CIC [the Code of Canon Law] canon 1395 §2, and CCEO [the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches], Canon 1453 §1," according to the preamble to the revised *Norms*. Norm 12 prohibits transferring a priest or deacon for ministry to another diocese or eparchy if he has sexually abused a minor.

The revised Norm adds new language spelling out the obligation of a bishop to inquire specifically about a background of sexual abuse whenever he accepts a transferred cleric for ministry. "Every bishop/eparch who receives a priest or deacon from outside his jurisdiction will obtain the necessary information regarding any past act of sexual abuse of a minor by the priest or deacon in question," the added language states. Under then-current church law the time limit for prosecuting the crime of clerical sexual abuse of a minor runs out 10 years after the victim reaches his or her 18th birthday, but the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith can extend the time limit indefinitely on a case-by-case basis for the prosecution of cases. In 2010, the Holy See changed the time limit to 20 years from the age of majority.

### **2007**

On March 9, the contract with John Jay College is signed for the beginning of the Causes and Context Study.

### **2008**

September 5 - Father James Ford - Mahony advised that Ford may be teaching at a school in the Coachella Valley. LAARCH 02213

December, George Miller pleads guilty to child molestation.

### **2009**

January - Father James Robinson arrested for child molestation prior to arriving in LA, 1986.

### **2011**

On May 16, the Vatican releases circular letter to episcopal conferences on developing guidelines for dealing with cases of sexual abuse of minors perpetrated by clerics.

On May 18, *The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010* study is released.

### **2012**

Bishop Accountability records 19 Bishops and over 6,000 priests/Deacons/Religious with credible accusations of childhood sexual abuse.