

CHICAGO (May 21, 2013)—The following is a statement of Fr. Timothy Kesicki, SJ, Provincial of the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), concerning Donald McGuire.

Over the past few years the Chicago Province Jesuits have reached an accord with individuals who have filed claims against Donald McGuire for sexual abuse. Out of respect for all involved, the Province will not comment in any further detail. It is important to note that we have, with and through attorneys and appropriate channels, been in dialogue with the victims and remain committed to continuing to work with them toward justice and healing.

Donald McGuire was removed from the Society of Jesus in November 2007 and was removed from the priesthood in February 2008. He is serving a 25-year sentence in federal prison.

I emphasize what we have said repeatedly, we are sorry. We apologize to anyone who may have been abused by Donald McGuire or by any member of this province. While any abuse perpetrated by a Jesuit has caused the Society of Jesus sorrow and shame, these feelings are nothing compared to the depth of suffering endured by those who have been abused, especially by one as trusted as a priest. If there are others who have been abused but have not notified us, I urge you to do so now and to contact the appropriate law enforcement or child-protection agency, no matter what amount of time has passed since the abuse.

We also want to say again that we are painfully aware that in the past we did not do enough to prevent abuse of children and vulnerable adults, and that we made mistakes by thinking that restrictive measures we undertook with regard to Donald McGuire would be effective. More important, we failed to listen to those who came forward and to meet their courage in dealing with Donald McGuire as we should have.

Our sorrow for past actions or inactions is profound, and this sorrow guides us to what we, as educators and as ministers, must do.

I want to make clear that we remain committed now and into the future to the measures we initiated in 2007 in response to the McGuire case and our overall need to ensure appropriate policies and procedures for preventing and/or responding to any allegations of misconduct with a minor or vulnerable adult.

More specifically, since 2007 we have done/are doing the following:

- Established Policies and Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse based on the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- In August of 2007, the Chicago Province received full accreditation from Praesidium, Inc, an organization providing consultation, risk management assessment, policy development, and training materials for use in preventing sexual misconduct and responding to allegations of sexual misconduct by the Province
- Maintain Praesidium Accreditation through periodic audits by Praesidium's independent auditors

- Implemented ongoing training for each Jesuit to establish awareness, prevention, and proper response to allegations of sexual misconduct per Praesidium's Accreditation standards
- Conducted background checks of all Jesuits to identify any past behavior that might suggest future misconduct
- Enhanced our screening process for all applicants to the Jesuits, which includes a criminal background check
- Work with the Province Review Board, consisting of lay and clergy professionals, to provide recommendations to the Provincial regarding specific allegations or policies
- Contracted Dr. Kathleen McChesney and Mr. William Gavin, former executives with the FBI who are experienced in providing guidance and direction to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, to conduct a review of all allegations of sexual abuse received by our Province to ensure that each case has been handled in accord with civil law and the Bishops' Charter
- With these experts, we have reviewed, and continue to review, our policies and procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse to help us to become more responsive and transparent
- In January 2008, we hired Ms. Marjorie O'Dea, former Chief of Police for the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department as our Director of Victim Advocacy. Ms. O'Dea is responsible for receiving allegations of the sexual abuse of a minor and ensuring that a report has been made to the appropriate prosecuting attorney
- All allegations received by the Province from a victim involving current or former Jesuits have been reported to civil authorities by the Province or have been reported by the alleged victim
- We update our website detailing ways to contact the Province and law enforcement authorities regarding allegations of sexual abuse of a minor

Of course, none of these steps, individually or collectively, can mitigate the harm that has been done. But they do address today and the future. Together with my brother Jesuits, I will strengthen and reinforce the ways in which we ensure that all of us fully live out our commitments to Christ and the people of God whom we serve.

The Chicago Province encourages anyone who has been abused by a member of the Chicago Province to contact the appropriate authorities, regardless of when the alleged abuse occurred. The contact information for the Chicago Province, law enforcement agencies, and child protection agency resources are listed on the Province website at www.jesuits-chgdet.org. The Director of Victim Advocacy, Ms. Marjorie O'Dea, stands ready to assist anyone who believes that sexual abuse or inappropriate sexual activity involving a Chicago Province Jesuit has taken place. Ms. O'Dea can be reached at 773-975-6363 or by mail at 2050 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL, 60614.

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