

## **Summary Explanation Regarding the List of Professed Members of the St. Paul of the Cross Province of the Congregation of the Passion With Validated Accusations of Abuse of a Minor**

The list of allegations available to the public upon request contains information concerning professed members (i.e., priests and brothers) of the Congregation of the Passion - Province of St. Paul of the Cross for whom accusations of abuse of a minor were communicated to the Province.

### **Thresholds for Inclusion of a Name in the List**

The names of those professed members included in the list are those for whom three primary thresholds for inclusion in a public list were met. The three thresholds were those accusations for which:

- a. **'Minor'**: The accuser was a 'minor' according to the statutes of the State in which the abuse occurred. In all the States in which abuse by a Passionist was validated a 'minor' is defined as less **than 18 years of age**;
  
- b. **'Semblance of Truth'**: The accusation was determined initially to be 'potentially feasible' such that the accusation had a **'semblance of truth'**. 'Semblance of Truth' is defined in a manner consistent with the standard of Praesidium, Inc., the accrediting organization of the Province of St. Paul of the Cross. An accusation determined to have a **'semblance of truth'** is one for which it was found upon initial review that the accuser was 1) able to **identify by name the accused**, 2) the accused was **in the place identified** by the accuser at 3) **the time indicated** by the accuser, and;
  
- c. **'Validated'**: An accusation for which thresholds 'a' and 'b' above were met was then subsequently **'validated'** as having occurred. Such accusations were **validated** in one or more of the following manners: either through/by:
  - i. **'Internal Province Review'**,
  - ii. **'External Investigation'**,
  - iii. **'Admission'**,
  - iv. **'Civil or Criminal Jurisdiction'**.

**'Internal Province Review'**: The information surrounding the accusation was researched on behalf of the Provincial of St. Paul of the Cross Province by a designee of the Provincial in consultation with Province legal representation and formal review by members of an independent, lay Review Board.

**'External Investigation'**: The information surrounding the accusation was investigated by a professional investigative firm external to the Province of St. Paul of the Cross. In one instance 'External Investigation' also occurred as part of formal criminal proceedings. In some instances, the external investigation was conducted in collaboration with an independent victim/survivor reconciliation or compensation program (IRCP, IVCP, ISCP) coordinated by the local diocese in which the abuse was validated to have occurred.

**'Admission'**: The accused verified by his own admission that the accusation was valid.

**'Civil or Criminal Jurisdiction'**: The accusation involved legal action through the judicial system. This action was either of a 'civil' (i.e., a private dispute between the accuser and the accused member) or 'criminal' nature (i.e., the offense/offender are deemed to represent harm to society at large and are then subject to criminal prosecution under the authority of the local state jurisdiction).

## Status of the Accused:

The status of those accused indicated in the report varies.

- a. **'Safety Plan – No Public Ministry' (SP-NPM):** In all circumstances in which the accusation was validated the accused, if alive at the time of the accusation, was subject to ministerial restrictions including no public exercise of ministry of any kind with any persons regardless of being of minority (less than 18 years) or majority (18 years or older). This status also included formal stipulations of ongoing supervision, external monitoring of daily activity and other stipulations warranted by the particular circumstances surrounding the accused. For example, ongoing psychological treatment, no unsupervised travel, no travel without formal permission.
- b. **'Official Removal' (OR):** In the case of those accused who were alive at the time of the accusation, in some instances, a formal process occurred leading to a Decree of Rescript or Indult from the Vatican that removed from the member the duties and obligations of priesthood and/or religious life (i.e., 'the clerical powers, rights and authority' of a priest and/or member of a religious congregation).
- c. **'Deceased':** Those cases in which the accused was 'Deceased' at the time of the accusation. Although the accused was not, therefore, permitted to make a defense against the accusation it was determined through 'Internal Province Review' or 'External Investigation' that there existed **substantial corroborating evidence to validate the accusation**. The accusations that meet this standard, and are thus included in the list, were those that received further confirmation through **forensic audit of Passionist personnel files (confidential and non-confidential) by a team of expert, professional auditors**.

## Location of the Abuse

The list identifies the location (township or municipality) in which the validated abuse took place. The list does not identify the current location of the accused.

## Footnotes:

- 1
- 2
- 3

---

<sup>1</sup> The list makes no reference to any accusation being 'credible'. The rationale for this approach is that in most cases the legal threshold of 'credible' could not be established. Nonetheless, in the interest of transparency and compassionate pastoral response to the gravity of these violations, all accusations, regardless of the limited access to legal prosecution, were evaluated according to the definitions of the terms 'potentially feasible', 'semblance of truth', and 'validated'. The inability to determine the legal equivalent of 'credible' was due to most of the accused being deceased, the lack of case facts that would serve as concrete evidence of credibility and the inability to properly litigate claims to identify applicable facts and establish the legal threshold of 'credible'. Note that in only one instance was an accusation determined to be legally credible through criminal prosecution.

<sup>2</sup> This list reflects only those accusations considered valid as of the 'Current Date' identified within the list. Changes to the list are made in conjunction with any new accusations that are validated.

<sup>3</sup> Anyone wishing to receive the full, current validated list, please contact Mr. Daniel Flynn, Province Director of Health and Social Services – Safe Environment Office at [dflynn@cpprov.org](mailto:dflynn@cpprov.org) and/or the Provincial offices at 929-419-7500. Mr. Flynn is also available to provide any further clarification that might be needed in this regard.