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RE: Sexual Molestation of Children by Priests

Dear Counselors:

I apologize for my tardiness in replying to your requests by letter and telephone. You asked that I provide you with additional details regarding information previously provided. A substantial amount of information was obtained in the discovery proceedings and the actual trial of the Hutchison v Luddy, Bishop Hogan and Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown case. As you can imagine, the Luddy file is quite extensive.

The task of finding specific details was made more difficult by the fact that the information that we received in litigation came in a piecemeal fashion. Originally, the record was filed under seal and the Diocese was not required to provide us with the names of any of the victims. As court rulings were made in our favor, the Diocese provided successive responses to multiple sets of discovery. You should be aware that the Blair County Courts limited our discovery of information maintained by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown regarding pedophile priests to a specific time frame that ended in December of 1984. Therefore, the information we secured directly from the Diocese per Court order is not up to date. Current information regarding the priests identified below and other pedophilic priests should be secured directly from the Diocese.

Additionally, with respect to individuals who have recently contacted us for representation regarding their sexual abuse, their permission to disclose this information had to be secured. That being said, I will try to provide you with those details I was able to garner from my review of both the file and other sources available to me.

As to Monsignor McCaa, in approximately the mid 1980s, at least five altar boys, ages 13-15 complained of being molested by Monsignor McCaa while he was assigned to Holy Name Church in Ebensburg. I have no real details of these five cases other than that contained in the Cambria County dockets. The files were sealed by the Court. Recently, however, I was contacted by _____ who lives in Pittsburgh. _____ advised that he was molested beginning at age 9, by Monsignor McCaa from approximately 1981-1985, while serving as an altar boy.

Monsignor McCaa was transferred by the Diocese of Altoona Johnstown to a position in West Virginia after the above cases were filed.

With regard to Father Coleman, we received information that he had molested a number of boys from as early as 1979 to the mid 1980s. These victims included

The molestations of which we became aware occurred while Father Coleman was assigned to parishes in Bellefonte and at St. Benedict's in Johnstown. Our information further indicates that complaints were made to Cambria County Children and Youth Services, but apparently no criminal actions were commenced. Despite these reported incidents, Father Coleman remained a priest within the Diocese until July 30, 1987, when Bishop Adamec claims to have finally removed him. It is likely that there were additional victims.

Father Leonard Inman was being investigated by authorities relative to his cruising for adolescent males while he was assigned to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. We did not receive any information as to the identities of his victims. Our information indicates that the Altoona Police Department was aware of Father Inman's activities and had followed up with Bishop Hogan regarding these allegations. We believe Bishop Hogan was notified of this activity in the mid 1980s. We are uncertain what happened to Father Inman.

Father Joseph Gaborek was accused of sexually molesting [redacted] while assigned to St. Michael's and St. Mary's in West Salisbury. These acts occurred in 1982 and 1984. Again our information indicates that there was police involvement in response to these allegations, with the State Police finally contacting Bishop Hogan regarding Father Gaborek. Nevertheless, Father Gaborek remained a priest within the Diocese for a number of years thereafter.

I could find no specific information as to Father Bender, except that the Diocese advised in discovery responses that "unsubstantiated" allegations had been leveled against him. These appeared to have occurred in the late 60s - early 70s.

Testimony of Bishop Hogan during the Luddy trial revealed that Father William Kovach admitted to a year long abusive relationship with then fifteen year old [redacted]. This included allegations of providing pornography and alcohol to the minor, and performing acts of masturbation and oral sex. He denied the allegation of sodomy. These acts occurred in the early 1980s while Kovach was assigned to a parish in Clarence, Pennsylvania. Testimony also revealed that Bishop Hogan was informed by Monsignor Panza of another complaint against Father Kovach dealing with inappropriate sexual conduct in the early 1970s. Despite admitting to multiple acts of child molestation, with the exception of sodomy, Kovach was permitted to remain a priest in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown until just recently, when it is our understanding that he retired.

Father Robert Kelly has been accused of sexually molesting [redacted], beginning when he was approximately twelve years old, in the mid to late 70s. At that time Kelly was

assigned to Our Lady of Victory Church. [REDACTED] currently lives in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania. It is believed that Father Kelly remains an active priest within the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

We learned from Father Luddy's testimony that Father Harold Biller had sexually assaulted [BA Redaction]. This occurred in approximately the early 1980s. At the time, Father Biller was assigned to St. Anne's which is believed to be in the in Hooversville area. We have no knowledge as to the present status of Father Biller.

Father Bernard Gratten's name first surfaced during trial as having a reputation for frequenting known homosexual hangouts and soliciting sex with minors. Since the trial, we have been contacted by [REDACTED] who, beginning at age 12, was molested in the late 70s to early 80s, by Father Gratten. At the time, Father Gratten was assigned to St. Patrick's in Newry. Father Gratten remains a priest to our knowledge, but recently took a leave of absence.

As to Father Luddy, he admitted during the trial to molesting the following individuals:

- [REDACTED] age 15, 1968-1970 while at St. Mark's, in Altoona;
- [REDACTED] in 1968, while at St. Mark's;
- [REDACTED] in 1968, while at St. Mark's;
- A fourth victim was assaulted by Father Luddy at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Rectory, in Altoona, in the early 70s. Father Luddy could not recall his name;
- [REDACTED] in 1969 at St. John's Rectory, in Johnstown;
- [REDACTED] 1969 or 1970, St. John's Rectory;
- [REDACTED] 1972/1973, and again in 1976, at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament and St. Therese's, both in Altoona;
- [REDACTED] age 11-14, 1976-1980. St. Therese's and St. Mary's in Windber;
- [REDACTED] in 1984 at St. Mary's;
- [REDACTED] 1985 at St. Mary's in Windber.

In addition to these individuals, [REDACTED] s brothers, [REDACTED] i were molested by Father Luddy. Others who were abused by Father Luddy include: [REDACTED] was age 13. [REDACTED] was molested at St. Mark's. [REDACTED] was molested while serving as an altar boy, beginning in 1975-1976 by Father Luddy at St. Therese's.

Father Luddy was transferred by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown to New Mexico, in 1987, where it is our understanding he remains.

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Several of the aforesaid priests have left Pennsylvania after complaints were filed. I as well as several of my clients, all of whom are now adults, would be interested in learning whether criminal complaints can still be filed, given their absence from the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania Courts.

It is my hope that this information will assist the District Attorneys' offices. If you would like to discuss any of these cases further, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD M. SERBIN

RMS/mar