



PASTORAL CENTER
DIOCESE of ORANGE

13280 CHAPMAN AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

Our Commitment to Protect Children and Young People

The Catholic Church and the Diocese of Orange are deeply committed and remain vigilant in protecting and caring for children, our most cherished resource. The Church has worked hard to protect children. Much has been done but more needs to be done. Until abuse is no longer a part of society, the Church will continue its efforts to stop it. The Catholic Church has done a great deal to ensure the safety and protection of children. Nationally, these efforts include:

- Safe Environment Training is taking place in 193 dioceses throughout the country. Over 2 million adults have been trained to recognize the behavior of offenders and what to do about it.
- Over 5 million children have been equipped with the skills to help them protect themselves from abuse.
- Background checks are conducted on Church personnel who have contact with children. Over 2 million volunteers and employees; 52,000 clerics; 6,205 candidates for ordination have had their background evaluated.

In 2002 the Diocese of Orange implemented a comprehensive approach to ensuring that children and teens are as safe as we can possibly make them. The Diocese employs a comprehensive background screening for all adults likely to be in contact with children - already over 60,000 have been vetted. This process allows for the collection of a wide variety of past screening data, including extensive backgrounds checks and fingerprinting, and is designed to enhance already in-place diocesan policies.

Since 2002 all clergy, employees, and volunteers have been required to undergo Safe Environment Training. In 2014 alone, the Diocese trained 286 priests, 115 deacons, 1,664 teachers, and more than 25,519 school employees and volunteers. Our schools and Religious Education classes at parishes and diocesan centers also provide Safe Environment education for children. This procedure is suited to their age and level of understanding. In 2014, nearly 44,000 children participated in this critically important awareness program. The Diocese of Orange has been found to be in full compliance with the Charter to Protect Children and Young People since implemented in 2003.

In addition to these important background screening and training requirements, the Diocese has introduced the following procedures:



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- The Diocese cooperates with law enforcement and appropriate agencies in reporting incidents of childhood sexual abuse.
- Convened an [independent Oversight Review Board](#) which investigates and evaluates any and all claims of abuse.
- Pamphlets outlining our policies are available in the vestibules of our churches and in the offices of our schools and religious education.
- Every member of the clergy and every employee have read and signed the diocesan policy on sexual misconduct.
- Seminaries are doing a better job of both psychological screening and educating the men applying for admission to the priesthood.
- Background checks are conducted for all seminarians, priests, and religious.
- All of our elementary schools and religious education programs have added *Circle of Grace*, a safety education program to their curriculum. This provides age appropriate education for our children and information for teachers and parents.
- Our high schools have all developed a safety education curriculum.
- The Diocese offers *Respecting the Boundaries, Keeping Ministerial Relationships Healthy and Holy* workshops for new employees twice a year.
- For more than 10 years the Diocese has had a reporting hotline for anyone who has a concern about possible acts of childhood sexual abuse.

Members and former members of clergy removed from ministry

In keeping with our efforts to protect children and young people and promote a culture of transparency, the Diocese of Orange has begun publishing information regarding members and former members of the clergy who have been removed from ministry resulting from a credible allegation of sexual abuse, as determined by our independent Oversight Review Board.

Removed from Priesthood and Laicized through Canonical Process

- Christian Anderson
- Michael Harris
- John Lenihan
- Michael Pecharich
- Caesar Salazar



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Suspended from Ministry and currently in Canonical Penal Process

- Msgr. Daniel Murray

Removed from Ministry

- Rev. Franklin Buckman (life of prayer and penance)
- Rev. Richard Coughlin (life of prayer and penance)
- Rev. Denis Lyons (life of prayer and penance)
- Rev. John Ruhl (life of prayer and penance)
- Rev. Gerardo Tanilong (Deceased)
- Robert Foley (voluntary permanent leave)
- Dominic Nguyen (voluntary permanent leave)
- Rev. Jerome Henson (life of prayer and penance)