

1 The Origin of the Explosion of Franciscan Sex Crimes in Santa Barbara in the 1960s

2 6. Franciscan perpetrators have been sexually assaulting children in Santa Barbara since
3 at least 1936. During this time at least forty-four (44) pedophilic and/or ephebophilic Roman
4 Catholic priests or religious brothers have been assigned to work at and were living at and/or
5 visiting various locations around Santa Barbara County, including but not limited to St.
6 Raphael's Church in Goleta, San Roque, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in
7 Montecito, and the adjoining properties of St. Anthony's and the Mission. Twenty-seven
8 (27) of those priests or religious brothers were or are Franciscans.

9 Although Franciscan priests and Religious brothers abused Santa Barbara children
10 much earlier in the 20th Century, there was an explosion of Franciscan sex crimes against at
11 least sixty-two (62) local children beginning in the early 1960s. That explosion was triggered
12 by events involving the Franciscans in the Diocese of San Diego in the early 1950s.

13 Prior to Santa Barbara the Franciscans used parishes in communities that at the time
14 were on the outskirts of the Diocese, such as Banning and Beaumont, as havens to send their
15 problem priests and Religious Brothers. Eventually the Diocese ended the Franciscans'
16 conduct. According to a letter written by the Bishop of San Diego on April 26, 1950:

17 "During the thirteen years since this Diocese was erected, to my own
18 personal knowledge, the Saint Barbara Province of the Franciscan
19 Fathers has used this Diocese as a dumping ground for their moral,
20 mental and physical problems. It became necessary for me some
time ago to demand the withdrawal of one misfit after another." See
Exhibit "A" (Emphasis added).

21 The Bishop was so frustrated with the Franciscans that he commenced the process of
22 applying to the necessary religious bodies in Rome to evict the Franciscans from the parishes
23 in the Diocese of San Diego. It would appear the Bishop eventually succeeded, and
24 sometime in the 1950s the Franciscans made Santa Barbara their new dumping ground for
25 Franciscan perpetrators. Beginning in the late 1950s the Franciscans began sending the first
26 of at least twenty-six (26) Franciscan perpetrators to Santa Barbara following their expulsion
27 from the Diocese. Those perpetrators are identified below in the decades they first appeared
28 and continued to reside in or visit Santa Barbara based on information known to date:

- 1 - Fr. Owen Da Silva (1930s)
- 2 - Brother Berard Connolly (1940s, 1980s - 1990s)
- 3 - Fr. Martin McKeon (1950s - 1960s)
- 4 - Fr. Edward Henriques (1960s)
- 5 - Fr. Mario Cimmarrusti (1960s - 1970s)
- 6 - Fr. Mel Bucher (1960s)
- 7 - Fr. Forrest McDonald (1960s - 1970s)
- 8 - Br. Kevin Dunne (1960s - 1970s)
- 9 - Br. Sam Cabot (1960s-1980s)
- 10 - Fr. Edmund Austin (1970s)
- 11 - Fr. Gus Krumm (1970s - 1980s)
- 12 - Fr. Paul Conn (1970s - 1980s)
- 13 - Fr. Dave Johnson (1970s - 1980s)
- 14 - Fr. Joseph Prochnow (1970s - 1980s)
- 15 - Br. Matteo Guerrero (1970s, 1990s - 2000s)
- 16 - Fr. Robert Van Handel (1970s -1990s)
- 17 - Fr. David Carriere (1970s - 2000s)
- 18 - Fr. Steve Kain (1980s)
- 19 - Fr. Philip Wolfe (1980s)
- 20 - Pre-novitiate candidate Ed Byrom (1980s)
- 21 - Pre-novitiate candidate Tom Thing (1980s)
- 22 - Fr. Chris Berbena (1980s)
- 23 - Fr. Remy Rudin (1980s - 1990s)
- 24 - Br. Gerald Chumik (2000s)
- 25 - Pedro Vasquez (2000s)
- 26 - Fr. Claude Riffel (1941-44, 1975-76)
- 27¹ - Fr. Fr. Alexander Manville (1960-73).

By the 1960s if not sooner these corrupt seeds planted by the Franciscans began bearing poisonous fruit as Franciscan perpetrators abused Santa Barbara children at a horrifying rate. At least eighty-five (85) children have been sexually abused in Santa Barbara by Roman Catholic priests or religious brothers since 1936. Sixty-two (62) of those children were abused by Franciscan priests or religious brothers since 1960. The confirmed number of victims and Franciscan perpetrators grows each year.

The consequences of the Franciscans' continuing corporate practices with regards to Franciscan perpetrators have been disastrous both for local children, and for a society that continues to bear the financial burden of the psychological fallout for abuse survivors. Abuse

1. This number does not include at least two (2) lay perpetrators the Franciscans allowed to sexually assault seminarians or boys choir members on the grounds of St. Anthony's among other locations. Specifically, during the 1970s St. Anthony's faculty member Francisco Moreno sexually assaulted at least one student in Moreno's office, and invited an unknown number of men from the community to assault the student as well. Additionally, in the 1980s perpetrator Fr. Robert Van Handel allowed and enabled his pedophilic friend, Gerald Heather, to sexually assault at least three members of the Santa Barbara Boys Choir.