

## **RE: U.S. Central and Southern Province Releases List of Credibly Accused Jesuits since 1954**

Message to the Regis Community:

The sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy and the subsequent failure to properly handle accusations has led people to rightfully question the leadership of the church and by extension the various dioceses and religious orders, including the Jesuits. In response, many religious orders and dioceses are releasing information related to sexual misconduct by priests to provide transparency and begin the process of restoring trust.

I recognize that this information will be painful for many to relive or learn about and I extend my sincere compassion and prayers for the victims of clergy and for all survivors of abuse.

Today, the U.S. Central and Southern Province, which oversees the Jesuit priests in Regis University's region, is releasing a preliminary list of 42 Jesuits who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor or a vulnerable adult dating back more than 60 years. The list is based on the Province's personnel files. The Province has retained Kinsale Management Consulting, a respected investigation firm composed of retired FBI and law enforcement personnel, to complete a thorough review of all records and reports and it will issue a final list in Spring 2019. About 2,500 men have served in the order during this time.

There are three men the Province listed as being associated with Regis University:

**Patrick H. O'Liddy, S.J.** He worked as an instructor and part-time university minister at Regis University from 1995-1996. He was arrested in 1999 in Jefferson County for attempted sexual assault on a minor and was sentenced to ten years of probation and 200 hours of community service. He was removed from ministry and subsequently left the Jesuits and the priesthood.

**John "Jack" Campbell, S.J.** He lived in Xavier House, the Province's Jesuit retirement home north of campus, for over 20 years. Due to allegations of child sexual abuse in St. Louis, the Jesuits had previously restricted him from minors in 1985 and removed him from ministry in 1987. He died in 2009. He was never a minister in Colorado nor did he ever work at the university.

**Arthur O. Verdieck, S.J.** He served at Regis Jesuit High School from 1955 to 1957 and then from 1959 until his death in 1980. A yearbook entry states he also was "father minister" to the Jesuit community including Regis College, as it was known then, believed to be from 1957 to 1959. According to the Province, one credible allegation of sexual misconduct that occurred off-campus in the late 1950s. The allegation was made in 2008 after his death.

The Province's list also includes eight priests, including Verdieck, who at some point were assigned to Regis Jesuit High School when the school shared our Northwest Denver campus. Two of those cases involved students at the high school.

Any person who has suffered abuse by a Jesuit is encouraged to notify the appropriate law enforcement or child-protection agency in the location in which the incident took place. They are further encouraged to contact Carol Brescia, LCSW, the Province's victim assistance coordinator. Ms. Brescia is a therapist who has experience working with victims/survivors of trauma. She may be reached confidentially at 314.915.7168 or [ucsoutreach@jesuits.org](mailto:ucsoutreach@jesuits.org). If you are aware of any occurrence of abuse by a current or former employee of Regis University, including any Jesuit, please contact Michelle Spradling, EO & Title IX Coordinator, at 303.964.6435 or [mspradling@regis.edu](mailto:mspradling@regis.edu).

We deplore the actions of the offenders. In moving through this process of disclosure, we acknowledge and mourn the breach of trust and the intense pain and suffering of the victims and their families. The University does not tolerate sexual abuse and will continue to respond swiftly and decisively to any past or current allegations of sexual abuse or misconduct by any member of our community.

*President John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.*

*December 7, 2018*

*Denver, Colorado.*