

# Release Names of Men Credibly Accused of Sexual Abuse of a Minor

## FAQ's Regarding the Release of Names of Accused Xaverian Missionaries and Procedures for Preventing Abuse

### **Q: What information are you releasing?**

**A:** The USA Province is releasing the names of any Xaverian Missionaries, living or deceased, with one or more credible allegations of abuse of a minor (a young person under the age of 18) since 1960. Along with the names, we are releasing the Xaverian's current status and when that took effect. These include death, leaving the Xaverian Missionaries, being *Impeded* (permanently removed from ministry as provided by the USCCB and Conference of Major Superiors of Men in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*), being *Restricted* through public laicization (removed from the priesthood by canonical process).

### **Q: Where is this information available?**

**A:** This information is accessible on the Xaverian Missionaries USA website.: [www.xaverianmissionaries.org/sxaccused](http://www.xaverianmissionaries.org/sxaccused).

### **Q: What do you mean by a credible accusation?**

**A:** An allegation is deemed "credible" if there is a preponderance of evidence that the allegation is more likely true than not after investigation. Credibility can also be established by an admission of the truth of the allegation by the Xaverian Missionary.

### **Q: Are any Xaverian Missionaries who abused a minor while a Xaverian Missionary still in active ministry?**

**A:** No.

### **Q: When is the last known incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a Xaverian Missionary?**

**A:** In the USA Province, the last known credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by a Xaverian happened in 1990. Most of the reported cases date from the early and mid-sixties, seventies and eighties.

### **Q: The released lists indicate that some Xaverian Missionaries were engaged in ministry after the date the abuse took place. How do you explain that?**

**A:** Accusations were received many years after the abuse took place, so a Xaverian may have continued in ministry because we were not aware of the abuse at that time. Since 2008, in line with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* of the US Catholic Bishops, clear and consistent procedures have been developed for removing from ministry priests and religious with a credible allegation of abuse of a minor. Prior to that time, priests were sometimes allowed to continue in ministry after an accusation. For example, decades ago it was often recommended that someone who had abused a minor could be safely returned to ministry after receiving treatment. We know better now. Our awareness of the nature and effect of abuse of minors has changed dramatically over the years. We are diligent in investigating all accusations of abuse of a minor, and we do not allow anyone with a credible accusation to engage in public ministry. We recognize now our failures of the past in this regard, and we are deeply sorry.

**Q: Why are you releasing this information now?**

**A:** Recent revelations about sexual abuse of minors by priests are leading the People of God rightly to desire greater accountability from the leadership of the Church. We are releasing this information to provide that kind of transparency. We view this disclosure as part of our commitment now to preventing abuse and hope that it will contribute to the process of restoring trust.

**Q: What happens when the Province receives an accusation of abuse of a minor?**

**A:** When a claim involving abuse of a current minor is made against a Xaverian Missionary, the Province immediately reports it to law enforcement regardless of the current age of the victim, or the time of the alleged abuse. We also report it to the diocese where the abuse may have occurred. Upon receipt of an allegation involving sexual misconduct with a minor, regardless of the victim's current age, the accused Xaverian is suspended from ministry pending the outcome of the investigation. The Province offers pastoral outreach to the victim. The Province also opens its own internal investigation irrespective of whether a criminal investigation is initiated. Results of the investigation are evaluated by the *Review Board of Region II Conference of Major Superiors of Men*, comprised of lay professionals, which makes a recommendation regarding the status of the allegation to the Provincial.

**Q: What happens to a Xaverian when an accusation of abuse of a minor is deemed credible?**

**A:** We are committed to safeguarding others and preventing future abuse while also caring for our Xaverian brothers, even those who have committed crimes and serious sins. Xaverians who are credibly accused of abuse of a minor do not engage in public

ministry and live within a *Safety Plan* in a strictly monitored environment where there is no contact with minors. Safety Plans specify risk reduction strategies and restrictions on behavior, including the use of technology, travel, and access by visitors. The plans are developed and monitored in consultation with the Review Board, and approved by an outside accrediting agency, Praesidium, Inc.

**Q: What are you doing to make sure this never happens again?**

**A:** The USA Province has a zero-tolerance policy regarding instances of inappropriate conduct between a Xaverian and a minor. We have had protocols and procedures in place since 2008 as part of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (Dallas Charter), a comprehensive set of procedures originally established by the USCCB for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. The Province is also accredited by Praesidium, Inc., an organization providing consultation, risk management assessment, policy development, and training materials for use in preventing sexual misconduct and responding to allegations of sexual misconduct. The Province maintains accreditation through regular audits by Praesidium. Our most recent re-accreditation was in 2016. Xaverians at every stage of their ministry receive regular safe-environment training to promote ethical conduct in ministry and awareness and sensitivity of professional boundaries. Even before a young man is accepted into the seminary, he undergoes an in-depth screening process that includes a psychosexual assessment, social media evaluation and an extensive criminal background check. We work hard to ensure that our long formation program for these young Xaverians fosters a healthy development for both their spiritual life and mental health.

**Q: How can I report abuse? Is the Province required to report accusations of abuse to civil authorities?**

**A:** We urge you to contact the District Attorney's office where the abuse may have occurred. [The list of offices by state is here](#). If you believe that you, or someone you know, has been abused by a Xaverian Missionary or a Province employee, we urge you to contact Fr. Carl Chudy, the *Survivor Assistance Coordinator* at 862-370-264-7000, [cchudy@xaverianmissionaries.org](mailto:cchudy@xaverianmissionaries.org), or in writing to the Xaverian Missionaries USA, 101 Summer Street, Holliston, MA 01746. We report accusations involving a minor to law enforcement and the diocese in the jurisdiction where the abuse may have occurred.

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