

Further Clergy Sexual Abuse by priests affiliated with Loyola  
University Chicago

Name – Role at Loyola University Chicago, (Year(s) at Loyola University Chicago)

Bellarmino School of Theology was an affiliate school of Loyola University Chicago, that included the Department of Theology.

**Jesuit Priests:**

Fr. Gerald F. Smola, S.J. – unknown position (1955)

Fr. Stanley T. Wisniewski, S.J. – instructor at Bellarmine School of Theology (1965)

Fr. Allan F. Kirk, S.J. – instructor at Bellarmine School of Theology (1966)

Fr. Mark A. Finan, S.J. – unknown position (1967-1973)

Fr. Robert J. Erpenbeck, S.J. – instructor at Bellarmine School of Theology (1969-1971)

Fr. Gerald A. Streeter, S.J. – instructor at Bellarmine School of Theology (1969-1970)

Fr. William J. Spine, S.J. – unknown position (1974-1975, 1992-2001)

Fr. Daniel C. O’Connell, S.J. – instructor of psychology, (1978-1990, 1998-2003)

Fr. David F. McCarthy, S.J. – living at Jesuit residence / unknown position (1979-1995)

Fr. Thomas J. Powers, S.J. – unknown position (1982-1983)

Fr. Michael E. Dorrlor, S.J. – unknown position (1985-1988)

Fr. Bernard Knoth, S.J. – unknown position (1990)

**Others:**

Valentine J. Klimek – unknown position (1948-1949)

James M. Janssen – graduate student (1956-1958)

John J. Ryan – instructor (1964-1978)

Robert E. Feeney – summer school student (1966-1969)

Sebastian Wuepper

Bernard Waltos – undergraduate student (1966-1970)

Louis Rogge (Carmelite) – instructor at department of theology (1975-1984)

Br. Gregory Sutton (Marist) – graduate student (1990-1991)

Over the course of the past sixty years, twenty-three members of the Catholic clergy, who at some point in their lives associated with Loyola University Chicago have been accused of sexual abuse. This is, however, only the number of those who are publicly known up to 2022. Their cases are considered credible by either their respective orders, by a Catholic diocese, or both. This project has focused on four cases, chosen for the priests' prominence in the Loyola community, and for the gravity and variation of their crimes. But there are still more cases than these. These other instances of CSA associated with Loyola University Chicago should, however, not go entirely unmentioned. These men should receive more attention than just being names on an otherwise anonymous list. These cases are in not in any way less worthy of condemnation, and the abuses have been as impactful on the lives of the victims-survivors. In fact, some of the offenses are among the worst crimes by Catholic priests that had a connection with Loyola University Chicago.

This list also contains a number of Catholic priests who were not members of the Society of Jesus, even though they were affiliated with the university. In some of these specific cases, the Jesuits at Loyola still were complicit in either allowing the priests to continue with their abuse, or being silent about it without asking any questions. or let this conduct go unpunished.

The number of cases featured in this essay and across the documentation project is not intended to be exhaustive. More cases than the ones analyzed here exist, but due to either a too tangential relation to Loyola University Chicago, or due to a lack of substantial evidence, we decided to omit these for the time being. Some cases are also still in motion, and neither the Jesuit Order nor local dioceses have acknowledged them as based on credible accusations. Some of these cases we do analyze have been settled out of court. That is the reason for the documentation to include only those cases that have been deemed credible by the Jesuit Order, local dioceses, or both.<sup>1</sup>

Of the priests accused of child sexual abuse who had a connection to Loyola University Chicago, Reverend Valentine Klimek was the earliest known case. Klimek was not a member of the Jesuit order, but a parish priest from St. Cloud, Minnesota. He was present at Loyola University Chicago between 1948 and 1949, but there are no records of what his position was at the university. At the time he was absent with leave from his assignment at St. Cloud. A woman from Klimek's diocese spoke up in 1991, more than forty years after his time at Loyola University Chicago, accusing the priest of having abused her son and a friend of this boy when they were eight or nine years old.<sup>2</sup>

For most of his career, Klimek surrounded himself with minors. From working as a spiritual director at Cathedral High School in Minnesota and director of a Catholic youth organization in St. Cloud, as well as involvement with the Boy Scouts of America,

---

<sup>1</sup> The exception is the case of Daniel O'Connell, who abused adult college students, and therefore does not appear on the lists of Jesuits or other priests accused of CSA.

<sup>2</sup> Jeff Anderson & Associates PA, "The Anderson Report - Child Sexual Abuse in the Archdiocese and Dioceses in Illinois" (AndersonAdvocates.com, December 2019), 22, <https://www.andersonadvocates.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Child-Sexual-Abuse-in-the-Archdiocese-and-dioceses-in-Illinois.pdf>.

Sebastian Wuepper

Klimek maintained close contact with children throughout his career. He passed away in 1994, never having officially been charged with a crime.<sup>3</sup>

The earliest case of a credibly accused member of the Jesuit order who had a documented association with Loyola University Chicago was Fr. Gerald Smola.<sup>4</sup> The public record contains very few details on his life and career before he joined the university. This Jesuit priest spent about one year, 1955, at Loyola University Chicago. However, publicly available records contain no clear indication on what his position was. He left the Loyola to teach at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, Ohio in 1956.<sup>5</sup> The Jesuit List states that he was dismissed from the Society of Jesus in 1969. Smola's career between his dismissal and his death in 2001 is not on public record. Whether he had access to minors during that time is also unknown. He was posthumously accused of having abused a child in the 1950s, while teaching at the University of Detroit Jesuit High School. The Jesuits do not list a reason for his dismissal.<sup>6</sup>

In 1956, after the year of Smola's departure to St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, Fr. James Janssen, another parish priest, joined Loyola University Chicago. Janssen came from the diocese of Davenport, Iowa, and had previously been incardinated as assistant pastor. He held this position at various churches across the Davenport diocese. Janssen was also a priest consultant to a grade school and worked with the Boy Scouts in his home diocese. But his behavior towards minors raised the

---

<sup>3</sup> "Fr. Valentine Klimek - BishopAccountability.Org," January 11, 2014, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/accused/klimek-valentine-1944/>.

<sup>4</sup> The Society of Jesus - USA Midwest Province, "USA Midwest Province Jesuits with an Established Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor" (The Society of Jesus, February 21, 2020), 11, [https://www.bishop-accountability.org/order\\_lists/Jesuits\\_Midwest/2020\\_02\\_21\\_Jesuits\\_Midwest\\_Established\\_Allegation\\_s.pdf](https://www.bishop-accountability.org/order_lists/Jesuits_Midwest/2020_02_21_Jesuits_Midwest_Established_Allegation_s.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Jeff Anderson & Associates PA, "The Anderson Report - Child Sexual Abuse in the Archdiocese and Dioceses in Illinois," 88.

<sup>6</sup> "Fr. Gerald F. Smola - BishopAccountability.Org," November 18, 2019, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/accused/smola-gerald-f-1951/>.

Sebastian Wuepper

attention of Davenport bishop Ralph L. Hayes when several YMCA representatives complained to the diocese that the priest had been repeatedly caught engaged in “a very improper activity” with several boys in 1956.<sup>7</sup> Janssen’s engagement in “homosexual tendencies” resulted in his removal from parish work in Clinton, Iowa.<sup>8</sup> At the time the Catholic Church generally conflated homosexuality with pedophilia and pederasty. As journalist Michael D’Antonio found, the Church interpreted pedophilia in their ranks not so much as a problem of abuse, but as “a problem of homosexual priests who preferred young partners.”<sup>9</sup> The Bishop of Davenport instructed Janssen “to leave the Diocese immediately or just as soon as possible,” putting him on indefinite leave of absence.<sup>10</sup>

Janssen was a serial child abuser: over the past decades thirty-seven victims were identified. He mostly occupied positions in the Iowa church that allowed him extended contact to children, with little supervision. He worked at schools, at an orphanage, and with the Boy Scouts. He often groomed his victims through such activities as shoplifting together with them, which in turn made the boys less likely to speak out against the priest’s abuse. One of these shoplifting trips in 1956 eventually ended with Janssen’s arrest. This caused Bishop Hayes and other Iowa clergy to pay closer attention to the priest and his activities.<sup>11</sup> The decision to send Janssen to another diocese came after

---

<sup>7</sup> George Alward, “YMCA Director Newton, IA Letter Re: Janssen,” November 2, 1956, Bishop Accountability, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/ia-davenport/archives/jnw-ex-08-J-20.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Harley Holliday, “YMCA Secretary Newton, IA Letter Re: Janssen,” November 2, 1956, Bishop Accountability, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/ia-davenport/archives/jnw-ex-08-J-18.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Michael D’Antonio, *Mortal Sins: Sex, Crime, and the Era of Catholic Scandal*, 1st ed. (New York: Thomas Dunne Books, StMartin’s Press, 2013), 25.

<sup>10</sup> Ralph L. Hayes, Bishop of Davenport, “Bishop Letter to Janssen,” November 9, 1956, Bishop Accountability, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/ia-davenport/archives/jnw-ex-08-J-20.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> “Janssen, James M., Assignment Record,” accessed February 22, 2022, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/ia-davenport/assignments/Janssen-James-M-Davenport-IA.htm>.

Sebastian Wuepper

other priests who had worked with Janssen approached the Bishop, urging him that “something should be done before the blow-up comes and the Church suffer.”<sup>12</sup>

Janssen spent his leave of absence at Loyola University Chicago, beginning in 1956. There he took up graduate studies – the field is unknown – and underwent psychological counseling. At that point he had already abused a sizable number of boys between the ages of five and thirteen, including his own nephew. Bishop Hayes’ reaction to the revelations that one of his priests engaged in crimes, was largely in line with the behavior of most Catholic bishops when they discovered clergy sexual abuse of children: he sent the offending priest away and ordered him to undergo therapy, counseling, and meditating on his behavior and missteps. Former President of the West Coast Chapter of the Franciscan Order, Joseph Chinnici, described this response as an elemental part of the clergy sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic church. The individual priests were one part, but another, no less crucial aspect was the culture of denial that anything fundamentally wrong was happening in the church. Chinnici calls this a crisis of the ecclesial culture of leadership. Church *and* religious order leaders failed to rise to the occasion and thereby enabled serial abusers to continue their behavior largely unchecked.<sup>13</sup> Michael D’Antonio explains this with the fact that, at the time, laicization of a Roman Catholic priest was a long, complicated process, that would have opened the church to scandal. Bishops instead preferred to keep reports on these issues for themselves and instead transferred offending priests to other dioceses.<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> MJD, “Letter to Bishop Hayes,” October 14, 1955, Bishop Accountability, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/ia-davenport/archives/jnw-ex-06-J-34.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> Joseph P. Chinnici, *When Values Collide: The Catholic Church, Sexual Abuse, and the Challenges of Leadership* (Maryknoll, N.Y: Orbis Books, 2010), 9.

<sup>14</sup> D’Antonio, *Mortal Sins*, 26.

At Loyola, Janssen underwent extensive psychotherapeutic counselling. Janssen's consulting psychologist, J. V. P. Stewart, revealed to Bishop Hayes that Janssen was not necessarily homosexual, but that he possessed a "disturbance in the sexual area," which Stewart attributed to the priest's childhood growing up without a father in his life and in a household where all talk about sex was taboo. Stewart also found Janssen "with considerable emotional immaturity." He recommended that Janssen should be assigned a spiritual director who could also serve as a replacement father figure.<sup>15</sup> This assessment echoes Marie Keenan's findings of many abusive clergymen, namely that they were often psycho-sexually stunted. But Keenan came also to the conclusion that this stuntedness did not necessarily result in clinical pedophilia and serial abuse.<sup>16</sup> Janssen, however, is the most prolific clerical child sexual abuser known to have had an affiliation with Loyola University Chicago.

During Janssen's time at Loyola University Chicago from 1956 to 1958, he also worked at the parochial school of St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale, Illinois, a western suburb of Chicago. There he worked with teenagers and boy scouts—and began to groom and engage in a sexually abusive relationship with a local altar boy. This relationship went on for over a year, during which Janssen graduated from Loyola. In 1958 he was re-assigned as substitute pastor to St. Michael's parish in Holbrook, Iowa. Stewart, the consulting psychologist at Loyola, inquired with Bishop Hayes at that time about Janssen, especially regarding his advice, that Janssen receive an assignment to a spiritual director who would serve as a substitute father figure. But Hayes replied that

---

<sup>15</sup> J. V. P. Stewart, "Letter to Bishop Hayes," August 24, 1957, Bishop Accountability, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/ia-davenport/archives/jnw-ex-13.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> Marie Keenan, *Child Sexual Abuse and the Catholic Church: Gender, Power, and Organizational Culture* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), 62.

Sebastian Wuepper

he had not assigned the priest a spiritual director, and also that Janssen had not followed any advice of the last pastor he worked with.<sup>17</sup> A short time later the mother of the abused altar boy found obscene letters that Janssen and her son were exchanging. She forwarded them to Bishop Hayes, who responded by suspending the priest. The bishop transferred him to the Abbey of Our Lady of New Melleray in Dubuque.<sup>18</sup> The letters between the boy and Janssen are available online through Bishop Accountability. The site has an extensive collection of evidence from the court cases against Janssen.

After Janssen's retirement and in the wake of the 2002 Boston cases, many of his former victims stepped forward, suing the priest along with the Davenport diocese in 2003. In the process of these legal actions a large amount of evidence was entered into the public record that revealed the extent of Janssen's abuses over the years. One former altar boy who at the time lived in Fort Madison, Iowa, described in detail the way that Janssen operated: the priest groomed a group of teenage boys, made them complicit in petty crimes, making himself the center of their in-group. He then turned to essentially pimping these boys out to a group of pedophile priests in the Davenport diocese.<sup>19</sup> Janssen's superiors were aware that Janssen had serious problems, but they never went quite far enough in their actions towards the priest so that children were protected from him. Given the large number of victims present in Davenport, the diocese eventually filed for bankruptcy, after having to pay \$37 million to a stunning 157 survivors—not all

---

<sup>17</sup> Ralph L. Hayes, Bishop of Davenport, "Bishop Hayes letter to Stewart," August 24, 1957, Bishop Accountability, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/ia-davenport/archives/jnw-ex-15-JJ-124.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> "Janssen, James M., Assignment Record."

<sup>19</sup> Unknown, "Douglas County Affidavit," December 15, 2003, Bishop Accountability, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/ia-davenport/archives/jnw-ex-41-R.pdf>.



Sebastian Wuepper

of whom were victims of the Janssen.<sup>20</sup> Janssen's victims received \$9 million in a settlement, and Janssen was sent to prison for six months. He was laicized in 2004 and passed away in 2015.<sup>21</sup>

The case of Fr. John J. Ryan is badly documented in the public record. The parish priest was born in 1925 in Chicago, and ordained to priesthood in 1951. He received a doctorate in theology from the University of Chicago in 1972. While pursuing his doctorate Ryan worked as a part-time instructor at Loyola University Chicago, where he became assistant professor of theology in 1973. He left Loyola for Concordia University in Montreal, Canada in the late 1970s.<sup>22</sup> Ryan passed away in 2000. After his death his diocese of Peoria, Illinois found substantial evidence of CSA against him. The diocesan list does not give a concrete year or place of the alleged abuse, only that Ryan was removed from active ministry at some point before his death. Therefore, it is unclear when or where the alleged abuse took place, whether Ryan was accused of one incident of child sexual abuse or of several.<sup>23</sup>

Not much is available in the public record either on Fr. Stanley T. Wisniewski. Born in 1933, entered the Society of Jesus in 1951. He was ordained to priesthood in 1964. Wisniewski taught for a year at Loyola's Bellarmine School of Theology in the western Chicago suburb of Aurora, IL in 1965. He also taught at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School in Chicago, where he allegedly abused a student in 1966. Wisniewski

---

<sup>20</sup> Associated Press, "Davenport Diocese Reaches \$37 Million Settlement with Priest Abuse Victims, Associated Press, Carried in Courier, December 4, 2007," *The Courier*, December 4, 2007, [https://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2007/11\\_12/2007\\_12\\_04\\_AP\\_DavenportDiocese.htm](https://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2007/11_12/2007_12_04_AP_DavenportDiocese.htm).

<sup>21</sup> "Janssen, James M., Assignment Record."

<sup>22</sup> "JOHN J. RYAN, 74; TAUGHT AT LOYOLA," Chicago Tribune, accessed April 29, 2022, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-2000-02-26-0002260095-story.html>.

<sup>23</sup> "Fr. John J. Ryan - BishopAccountability.Org," January 30, 2020, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/accused/ryan-john-j-1951/>.

Sebastian Wuepper

seems to have been among the number of priests that displayed the rather common pattern that Marie Keenan found, where the men engaged in child sexual abuse of a relatively small number of children a considerable time after their ordination.

Compared to a case like Janssen's, Wisniewski did not fit the profile of a of Keenan's "pathological pedophile".<sup>24</sup> But Wisniewski did belong to the cohort of priests that Joseph Chinnici found in the data of the John Jay report: men born between 1920 and 1949, ordained to priesthood between 1950 and 1969, the main group of perpetrators in the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic church.<sup>25</sup> There is no further reference to the Wisniewski case on public record. There is one accusation of child abuse during his lifetime that is considered credible according to Midwest Province of the Jesuit Order list. The case was never brought to court.<sup>26</sup> After having served in parishes and high schools in Chicago and Nevada, Wisniewski passed away in 2005.<sup>27</sup>

Three other priests, facing accusations of CSA later in their lives, joined Loyola University Chicago in 1966.

Robert E. Feeney was a parish priest from the archdiocese of Bismarck, North Dakota. The exact circumstances of his case are absent from the public record. He attended Loyola University Chicago during the summer of 1966.<sup>28</sup> When and where his alleged abuse took place is not known. His priestly faculties were removed in 2002,

---

<sup>24</sup> Keenan, *Child Sexual Abuse and the Catholic Church*, 65.

<sup>25</sup> Chinnici, *When Values Collide*, 15.

<sup>26</sup> The Society of Jesus - USA Midwest Province, "USA Midwest Province Jesuits with an Established Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor," 10.

<sup>27</sup> Jeff Anderson & Associates PA, "The Anderson Report - Child Sexual Abuse in the Archdiocese and Dioceses in Illinois," 91.

<sup>28</sup> Tribune Staff, "Robert E. Feeney," *Bismarck Tribune*, April 5, 2006, Bishop Accountability, [https://www.bishop-accountability.org/news555/2006\\_04\\_05\\_bismarcktribune\\_Robert\\_E.pdf](https://www.bishop-accountability.org/news555/2006_04_05_bismarcktribune_Robert_E.pdf).

Sebastian Wuepper

indicating that the diocese became aware of his transgressions at that point. Feeney passed away in 2006.<sup>29</sup>

At the end of summer of 1966, Bernard Waltos joined Loyola as an undergraduate student. After his time at Loyola, Waltos joined the Franciscan order and was ordained a Franciscan priest in 1974. He allegedly abused children while working at the Queen of Angels dioceses in Riverside, California in the late 1980s. The diocese learned of this abuse case only after Waltos had passed away in 1992.

Lastly, Jesuit Allan F. Kirk spent a year teaching at Loyola's Bellarmine School of Theology in 1966. Only after Kirk's death in 2006 the Jesuit Midwest province was informed that Kirk had abused students at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School in Chicago.<sup>30</sup>

The next entry on the list of Jesuit priests credibly accused of child sexual abuse released by the Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus is Fr. Mark A. Finan, born in 1916. Finan entered the Jesuit Order in 1934 and was ordained to priesthood in 1948. According to accusations, he engaged in child sexual abuse before his ordination, while teaching at St. Ignatius College Preparatory School in Chicago. As noted earlier, the research into the child sexual abuse crisis indicates that most catholic priests who sexually abused children began doing so years into their careers as clergy members, a significant time after having access to children. Finan later in his career abused more students while working at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Ohio in the years 1963 and 1965. He spent six years at Loyola University Chicago between 1967 and 1973, but

---

<sup>29</sup> "Fr. Robert E. Feeney - BishopAccountability.Org," January 14, 2020, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/accused/feeney-robert-e-1956/>.

<sup>30</sup> Jeff Anderson & Associates PA, "The Anderson Report - Child Sexual Abuse in the Archdiocese and Dioceses in Illinois," 76.

Sebastian Wuepper

public records do not reveal what role he had here.<sup>31</sup> Finan was dismissed from the Jesuit order in 1973 for undisclosed reasons. After his dismissal he served in Los Angeles in some unknown function, the details of which are not available in public records. Finan passed away in 1993. He was buried on a priest plot, which indicates that while he ceased being a Jesuit, he was never laicized.

In 1969 Loyola's Bellarmine School of Theology in Aurora welcomed to the ranks of their faculty two Jesuit priests who later in their lives were accused of child sexual abuse . Fr. Gerald Streeter had been ordained to priesthood the previous year. Later he was accused of having abused a student while teaching at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois back in 1964, five years before he became a priest. Streeter taught at Bellarmine School of Theology for two years before moving on to a preparatory school in Indianapolis. He worked around minors for most of his life, and passed away in 1996.<sup>32</sup>

The second priest was Fr. Robert Erpenbeck, a Jesuit clergy member who had been ordained in 1944. Erpenbeck was later accused of having abused several children in Milford, Ohio, where the Jesuits operated both a retreat center and a novitiate. The abuse allegedly took place in 1961 and 1964, years before the priest joined the ranks of Loyola University Chicago's faculty at the Bellarmine School of Theology.<sup>33</sup> Nothing in Erpenbeck's career indicates that the Jesuit order was aware of his abuse. He continued a steady career working at educational institutions until his death in 1986.<sup>34</sup>

---

<sup>31</sup> "Fr. Mark A. Finan - BishopAccountability.Org," November 1, 2019, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/accused/finan-mark-a-1948/>.

<sup>32</sup> "Streeter - BishopAccountability.Org," accessed March 3, 2022, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/?s=streeter>.

<sup>33</sup> "Erpenbeck - BishopAccountability.Org," accessed March 3, 2022, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/?s=erpenbeck>.

<sup>34</sup> Jeff Anderson & Associates PA, "The Anderson Report - Child Sexual Abuse in the Archdiocese and Dioceses in Illinois," 72.

Another non-Jesuit priest joined Loyola University Chicago officially in 1972, according to the 1981-1983 undergraduate course book. He was employed as an instructor in theology.<sup>35</sup> Louis Rogge was a Carmelite priest from Chicago, who in the early 1970s traveled the United States on various assignments. He was charged with, and pleaded guilty to, child sexual abuse in Athens, Georgia in 1974. Rogge received a sentence of six years' probation for his offenses.

Nonetheless he remained affiliated with Loyola University Chicago, staying on as a faculty member until 1984. After over a decade of work at Loyola, Rogge transferred to Rome, Italy where he worked in the administration of the Carmelite order. He returned to the United States in 1992, training to become a hospital chaplain. Between 1994 and 2002 he worked as a traveling Carmelite who ministered around the country upon invitation by local churches. During this time Rogge abused two fifteen-year-old boys in Joliet, Illinois, the location of his primary residence. He was charged with child sexual abuse and again plead guilty to these charges in 2006. He died before sentencing took place.

The Carmelite provincial of Chicago, John Welch, cited in a Herald News article on Rogge's case, told reporters that Rogge worked at Loyola University Chicago from 1976 to 1984. In contrast, the undergraduate course books list Rogge as associated with Loyola since 1972.<sup>36</sup> That the university administration would have been unaware of one of their instructors pleading guilty to child sexual abuse charges seems unlikely, and it

---

<sup>35</sup> "Loyola University Chicago: Undergraduate Studies Course Catalog, 1981-198 | Loyola University Chicago Digital Collections," 394, accessed February 2, 2022, [https://luc.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO\\_8b8d7185-1bbf-411e-9402-7b3e28829848/](https://luc.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO_8b8d7185-1bbf-411e-9402-7b3e28829848/).

<sup>36</sup> "Priest Accused of Molestation, by Patrick Ferrell, Herald News, December 22, 2006," accessed October 22, 2021, [https://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2006/11\\_12/2006\\_12\\_22\\_Ferrell\\_PriestAccused.htm](https://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2006/11_12/2006_12_22_Ferrell_PriestAccused.htm).

Sebastian Wuepper

would be a grave oversight given that Rogge stayed with Loyola for a decade after pleading guilty to having sexually abused minors.

William Spine was a newly ordained priest when he joined Loyola University Chicago in 1974. He had become a Jesuit in 1960 and received his ordination to priesthood in 1973. A year later he came to Loyola University Chicago's Jesuit school of Theology, however the records do not indicate in what capacity, whether as a faculty member or as a graduate student. After two years in Chicago Spine was sent to Peru, where he served for several years during the 1970s until 1982. During his time in South America, Spine allegedly abused a minor student of his repeatedly over the course of several years.<sup>37</sup> The Jesuits' list of Jesuits with established allegations of sexual abuse of a minor list two further incidents with Spine's entry: one between 1975 and 1976, which took place at the diocese of Lexington, Kentucky—and overlapping with his time in Peru—and another incident after his assignment to parishes in Brooklyn, New York between 1979 and 1982.<sup>38</sup> After serving for a few years in New York, Spine returned to Illinois in 1986, serving at several churches in the Chicagoland area. After spending a year at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, California, Spine again returned to Chicago in 1991, where he became involved with the Hispanic House at Loyola University Chicago before being assigned to the diocese of Lexington, Kentucky. The diocese of Lexington also added Fr. Spine to their respective list of clerical sexual abusers, but added that he was not assigned to the diocese at the time of the alleged

---

<sup>37</sup> "Rev. William J. Spine, s.j.- Assignment Record," accessed March 8, 2022, [https://www.bishop-accountability.org/assign/Spine\\_William\\_J\\_sj.htm#shorthand](https://www.bishop-accountability.org/assign/Spine_William_J_sj.htm#shorthand).

<sup>38</sup> The Society of Jesus - USA Midwest Province, "USA Midwest Province Jesuits with an Established Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor," 10.

Sebastian Wuepper

incidents but only began to serve there in 2001.<sup>39</sup> Spine was accused of child sexual abuse in 2005. The Jesuit's Chicago province took several months after finding out about the allegations to remove Spine from active ministry. At the time Spine was running the Hispanic ministry in Lexington. He was assigned to the Chicago provincial office before he was sent to serve in Rome in 2007.<sup>40</sup>

Spine's case is an outlier from the general trend of CSA. The priest was born in 1940, and insofar falls into the birth cohort of those who make up the bulk of clerical sexual child abusers, however he was ordained in 1973, which is late in comparison to most other abusers. The John Jay reports indicate that the cohorts of child sexually abusive priests mainly range from 1950 to 1969.<sup>41</sup> As with other priests who sexually abused children, Spine's frequent changes in assignment certainly helped in obscuring his crimes.. However, the alleged sexual abuse cases Spine was accused of do not coincide with transfers.

Fr. Daniel C. O'Connell was a highly accomplished Jesuit when he joined the ranks of Loyola University Chicago's psychology department in 1978. He came from St. Louis University, where he had been president. O'Connell was born in 1928 in Sand Springs, Oklahoma and grew up in Dallas, Texas and St. Louis, Missouri. He joined the Jesuits in 1945 and received his priestly ordination in 1958 in Kansas. He spent his life in secondary and post-secondary education, becoming a professor of psychology at St.

---

<sup>39</sup> Allison Connelly, Andrew Sparks, "PART I: INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BY CATHOLIC CLERGY AUGUST 14, 2020" (Diocese of Lexington, August 14, 2020), 12, Bishop Accountability, [https://www.bishop-accountability.org/diocesan\\_lists/Lexington/2020\\_08\\_17\\_Lexington\\_Report\\_Update.pdf](https://www.bishop-accountability.org/diocesan_lists/Lexington/2020_08_17_Lexington_Report_Update.pdf).

<sup>40</sup> Jeff Anderson & Associates PA, "The Anderson Report - Child Sexual Abuse in the Archdiocese and Dioceses in Illinois," 89.

<sup>41</sup> Chinnici, *When Values Collide*, 15.

Sebastian Wuepper

Louis University in 1966. He became president of the university in 1974.<sup>42</sup> When interviewed by the Georgetown University student newspaper *The Hoya*, O’Connell admitted that his relinquishing the position of president of St. Louis University and transfer to Loyola University Chicago happened because of sexual abuse allegations against him in St. Louis.<sup>43</sup> O’Connell had sexually abused a student at St. Louis University in the 1960s. The survivor sued O’Connell and the Missouri province of the Jesuits in 2012, and the case was settled for \$200,000.<sup>44</sup> In 1983, when O’Connell was assigned to Loyola University Chicago’s Rome Center as a chaplain, he again abused a student, from the College of the Holy Cross.<sup>45</sup>

O’Connell’s case is an outlier: His victims were adult female college students. This means Daniel O’Connell was not featured on the Jesuit’s list, because his victims were just over eighteen years old. He and the order were sued several times over these cases, first in 2003 by the woman he assaulted in Rome. The case was settled for \$181,000, with obligation for the order to bar O’Connell from teaching. When this survivor learned in 2009 that the Jesuits had failed to uphold their end of the bargain, she sued the order and O’Connell again, earning her another settlement for \$81,000. Then in 2016 the survivor from an earlier assault stepped forward and sued the order and O’Connell as well.<sup>46</sup> The Jesuit eventually lost his professor emeritus status from the various

---

<sup>42</sup> “O’Connell, Daniel C. (Father),” Central & Southern Province, accessed April 29, 2022, <https://www.jesuitscentralsouthern.org/memorial/oconnell-daniel-c-father/>.

<sup>43</sup> “Decade After Public Abuse Accusation, O’Connell Loses GU Emeritus Status,” March 15, 2019, <https://thehoya.com/decade-public-abuse-accusation-oconnell-lose-gu-emeritus-status/>.

<sup>44</sup> Tony Messenger, “Messenger: A Priest, a President, a Predator,” STLtoday.com, accessed April 29, 2022, [https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/tony-messenger/messenger-a-priest-a-president-a-predator/article\\_d866cd78-555b-5988-ae16-f16a1de828f4.html](https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/tony-messenger/messenger-a-priest-a-president-a-predator/article_d866cd78-555b-5988-ae16-f16a1de828f4.html).

<sup>45</sup> “Jane Doe MB Suit | PDF | Lawsuit | Legal Disputes,” Scribd, accessed April 29, 2022, <https://www.scribd.com/document/401766394/Jane-Doe-MB-Suit>.

<sup>46</sup> “Decade After Public Abuse Accusation, O’Connell Loses GU Emeritus Status.”



Sebastian Wuepper

universities he had been affiliated with. He was however neither removed from public ministry nor from the Jesuit order. He passed away in 2020.

The public record is very sparse on life details of Jesuit Fr. David F. McCarthy who was assigned to live at the Jesuit residence at Loyola University Chicago in 1979. The public records do not indicate what position Fr. David F. McCarthy had for the fifteen years he was assigned to Loyola. The priest was later in his life accused of having abused several children while he was serving at Holy Family Parish in Chicago, between 1965 and 1968. McCarthy passed away in 1999. According to the Jesuit list however, the order received the accusations of child abuse against him while he was still alive, indicating that the Jesuits were aware of his offenses before 1999.<sup>47</sup>

Another priest who in his past had been sexually abusive towards minors joined Loyola University Chicago in 1982. Fr. Thomas J. Powers is not listed in the university's course books of the academic years he was assigned to Loyola, and nothing in the public record indicates his position at the university, whether he was faculty, ministry, a student, or simply living in the Jesuit residence adjacent to Lakeshore Campus.<sup>48</sup>

Powers came from the diocese of Cleveland, where he had been teaching at St. Ignatius High School on the city's West Side as well as at John Carroll University. He was later accused of having sexually abused multiple students at both of these locations. Immediately before coming to Loyola, Powers had served as chaplain in the United States Army. After two years at Loyola, he returned to Ohio, where he taught at Walsh

---

<sup>47</sup> The Society of Jesus - USA Midwest Province, "USA Midwest Province Jesuits with an Established Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor," 6.

<sup>48</sup> The Society of Jesus - USA Midwest Province, "USA Midwest Province Jesuits with an Established Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor Assignment List" (The Society of Jesus, December 21, 2018), 54, [https://www.bishop-accountability.org/order\\_lists/Jesuits\\_Midwest/2018\\_12\\_21\\_Jesuits\\_Midwest\\_Established\\_Allegations\\_Assignment\\_List.pdf](https://www.bishop-accountability.org/order_lists/Jesuits_Midwest/2018_12_21_Jesuits_Midwest_Established_Allegations_Assignment_List.pdf).

Sebastian Wuepper

Jesuit High School in the Cleveland suburb of Cuyahoga Falls. Here, too, Powers was later accused of having abused students over the course of several years. He spent the larger part of his career as a faculty member in secondary and post-secondary education. He was then again accused of sexually abusing a minor in the year 2000 while he was living at the Colombiere Center in Clarkston, Michigan.<sup>49</sup> The public record lacks exact information on Powers' transgressions. He was dismissed from the Jesuit order in 2001. The reason for his dismissal is not on record. Powers' case file and publicly available records do not indicate whether or not the Jesuits were aware of his behavior before his eventual dismissal.<sup>50</sup>

Fr. Michael Dorrlor's career with the Jesuit order was somewhat atypical. Most Jesuits of his generation joined the order immediately out of high school. Dorrlor only became a Jesuit at the age of 31 in 1975. Unlike his brothers in Christ who join the order in their teenage years, Dorrlor then ascended to priesthood much faster: within eight instead of the usual thirteen to fifteen years. He received his ordination in 1983. He taught at Jesuit-run high schools in northern Ohio and in Chicago before joining Loyola University Chicago in 1984. The public record does not reveal the positions that Fr. Dorrlor held at Loyola, whether he was faculty, ministry or a student, or several of those. The Anderson Report indicates that he held several positions since he was registered with different residences across the four years of him being associated with the university.<sup>51</sup> Dorrlor was assigned to Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis,

---

<sup>49</sup> The Society of Jesus - USA Midwest Province, 9.

<sup>50</sup> "Fr. Thomas J. Powers - BishopAccountability.Org," October 31, 2019, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/accused/powers-thomas-j-1972/>.

<sup>51</sup> Jeff Anderson & Associates PA, "The Anderson Report - Child Sexual Abuse in the Archdiocese and Dioceses in Illinois," 70.

Sebastian Wuepper

Indiana in 1989. He was later accused of having sexually abused a minor during his time there.

The records do not show what relationship this minor had to Fr. Dorrler, or whether this minor was a student at Brebeuf.<sup>52</sup> The priest's assignment record indicates that the accusations against him were made in 2002, while he was assigned to the Gregorian University Foundation in Washington DC. This seems to be the date at which he was removed from public ministry, since after that his assignment is listed only as "Jesuit community" indicating that from 2002 on he was only allowed to hold mass for fellow Jesuits without laypeople present.<sup>53</sup>

Like Dorrler, Fr. Bernard Knoth also was accused of having sexually abused minors between 1986 and 1988 while teaching at Brebeuf Preparatory School. The record shows that the minors Knoth abused were in fact students at Brebeuf. Knoth briefly joined Loyola University Chicago from 1989 to 1990, but there is no indication whether he held a position with the university or simply lived at the Jesuit residence. The biographical details of his life that are publicly available are very sparse. Knoth spent his entire career as a Jesuit in secondary and post-secondary education. After his time at Loyola University Chicago he was assigned to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. After Georgetown, Knoth became president of Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1995, where he served until the accusations against him surfaced in 2003. Knoth denied the allegations personally, however his Jesuit superiors deemed them credible, revoked his privileges as a priest and assigned him to the Jesuit

---

<sup>52</sup> D'Antonio, *Mortal Sins*, 18.

<sup>53</sup> The Society of Jesus - USA Midwest Province, "USA Midwest Province Jesuits with an Established Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor Assignment List," 11.

Sebastian Wuepper

community in Chicago, indicating that he was removed from public ministry.<sup>54</sup> In 2007 he was working for a private business in Sarasota, Florida, before the Jesuits officially laicized him and dismissed him from the order in 2009.<sup>55</sup>

Unlike Fr. Knoth, Brother Gregory Sutton, who came to Loyola University Chicago in 1990, was not a Jesuit, but a Marist Brother, originally from Lismore, New South Wales, Australia. There, Brother Gregory had taught at a Catholic high school. Sutton came to Loyola to earn a Master's degree in organizational development. While at the university, Australian authorities issued warrants for his arrest for a large number of incidents of child sexual abuse. After years of international legal wrangling, Sutton was eventually arrested by federal authorities in Missouri, where he had taken up the position of principal with a K-8 school in Florissant. He was extradited to Australia in 1995, where he stood trial. Sutton pled guilty to 67 charges against fifteen children he abused between the years of 1976 and 1987. However no further allegations were raised against him from his time in the United States. Sutton was reportedly tipped off by his Marist superiors that the Australian police were investigating allegations of child sexual abuse against him, and on the advice of his superior flew to Canada to undergo therapy at a center treating priests for addiction and psychological problems.<sup>56</sup> It is unlikely that the Jesuits at Loyola University Chicago had any knowledge of the investigations against Sutton in Australia at the time that he was pursuing a graduate degree in Chicago.

---

<sup>54</sup> The Society of Jesus - USA Midwest Province, 31.

<sup>55</sup> "Knoth - BishopAccountability.Org," accessed March 10, 2022, <https://www.bishop-accountability.org/?s=knoth>.

<sup>56</sup> "Marist Sex Abuser Gregory Sutton May Have Been Tipped Off, Inquiry Hears, by Helen Davidson, The Guardian, August 7, 2014," accessed March 10, 2022, [https://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2014/07\\_08/2014\\_08\\_07\\_Davidson\\_MaristSex.htm](https://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2014/07_08/2014_08_07_Davidson_MaristSex.htm).