



DIOCESE OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Press Release
December 12, 2018

The Diocese of Juneau, Alaska announced on December 12, 2018, that Bishop Andrew Bellisario, C.M. has appointed an independent commission to review the personnel files of clergy and religious who have served in the Diocese of Juneau since its establishment in 1951. The commission will also review all allegations of sexual misconduct of employees and volunteers reported to the diocese since 1951.

The members of the commission are:

Patricia Collins, retired District Court Judge in Ketchikan and retired Superior Court Judge in Juneau.

Thomas E. Schulz, retired Superior Court Judge, who practiced law in Juneau and served as a Dist. Magistrate for 2 1/2 years in Juneau and as a Superior Court Judge in Ketchikan for 19 years.

Kris Sell, retired Juneau Police Lieutenant, worked for 20 years as an officer, detective sergeant, and finishing with 12 years as a lieutenant.

The members of the commission will have full access and complete cooperation. Upon completion of their review, the members of the commission will present a written report simultaneously to the Bishop and the President of the Diocesan Review Board for the Protection of Children, Young People, and Vulnerable Adults. Among its findings, the report will contain a list of all names of those determined by the commission to have credible allegations of sexual misconduct, which includes any violation of state, federal or canon law involving children or vulnerable adults as well as improper handling of those cases by those in authority and recommended improvements. The members of the commission will also publish a written statement as to whether or not they did indeed receive full access and complete cooperation during their review.

After the Bishop and the members of the Diocesan Review Board review the report, the Bishop will publish the names of those with credible allegations of sexual misconduct committed against minors and vulnerable adults.

The commission will begin their work on January 7, 2019 and are estimated to complete the review by June 1, 2019.

Bishop Bellisario offers his deepest apologies to anyone who has been harmed by a representative of the Church in the Diocese of Juneau. Victim-survivors of clerical sexual abuse are encouraged to first report allegations of abuse to local law enforcement. The Diocese of Juneau is committed to justice and healing for all survivors of sexual abuse and maintaining safe environments for the protection of all.

Contact: Dominique Johnson (907) 586-2227 x32 or communication@dioceseofjuneau.org