

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Thursday, August 25, the Archdiocese of Boston took another step in its ongoing response to the tragedy of sexual abuse of children by clergy. For the first time, the archdiocese has published in one place the names of accused clerics. The material is available through the Archdiocesan website at www.bostoncatholic.org Cardinal Sean O'Malley's letter regarding this step is six pages long and too lengthy to reproduce here - it is, however, available online along with an open letter to survivors and an open letter to priests. Below my signature is the general summary the Archdiocese has offered.

Sincerely,
Fr. Fleming

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This week, the Archdiocese of Boston has launched a web-based publication with respect to its clergy accused of sexual abuse of a child. The publication can be found on the Archdiocesan website, www.bostoncatholic.org Cardinal O'Malley has explained both the rationale for his decision and the thorough consultation process involved in making this publication.

- The listing represents the first time that names of accused clerics have been compiled by the Archdiocese in a central location and a readily accessible format. It contains information regarding several categories of accused Archdiocesan clergy.
- The Archdiocese has also published a separate listing of the names of clergy who have been publicly accused of sexually abusing a child where the allegations have been found unsubstantiated or where the priest has been acquitted after a canonical process. In a number of cases, these priests have been returned to active ministry.
- Cardinal O'Malley's deepest hope and prayer is that this effort will provide some additional comfort and healing for those who have suffered from sexual abuse by clergy and will continue to strengthen efforts of the Archdiocese of Boston to ensure the protection of God's children.
- The Archdiocese recognizes that this announcement may serve as a painful reminder of the wounds many survivors carry and invites any individual who has been harmed by clergy sexual abuse to contact the Office of Pastoral Support and Outreach at (781) 794-2581 or (866) 244-9603.
- The release of this information could be a difficult experience for the parish communities in which these priests once served. We continue to pray for all those affected by clergy sex abuse.