



BOS 2  
BAL 0

4th

# Annual report shows continued toll of clergy sex abuse crisis

E-MAIL

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

GOOGLE

LINKEDIN

32

By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF MAY 20, 2016

The Catholic church paid \$153 million in the United States last year to settle lawsuits, and fielded hundreds of new accusations, as fallout continued from the clergy sex abuse scandal exposed in the early 2000s, a new report from church leaders says.

The [annual report](#) from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, which covers July 2014 to June 2015, said 384 victims came forward with allegations the church deemed credible.

The figure, while somewhat higher than the 330 allegations deemed credible in the prior year, generally fit into a trend in which the number of such allegations has declined in recent years.

“One instance of abuse is one too many,” Deacon Bernie Nojadera, executive director of the conference’s Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection, wrote in the report.

“May our Lord continue to heal all who have been victimized by this crime and may our efforts toward healing, reconciliation, and peace be blessed,” he added.

**DOWNLOAD**

3 Easy Steps:

- 1) Click "Download"
- 2) Download on our website
- 3) Get Free File Converter

fromDOCtoPDF™

**Clergy accused of sexual abuse in the Boston Archdiocese**

The following is a list of priests and other clerics who have faced at least one public allegation of child sex abuse, even if the accusation did not result in criminal charges, a lawsuit, or settlement. Note: The list of parishes and other assignments for each cleric covers the cleric's entire career. It should not be read as a list of places where alleged abuse occurred. To look up a priest, parish, or town by name, use the search bar on the upper-right corner of the table. Click the green plus symbol to see where the cleric served.

First	Last	Born	Ordained	Note	Acknowledged by Archdiocese
John H.	Acres		1983	Accused in lawsuit - referred to Suffolk County District Attorney	N
Richard J.	Ahern		1954	Deceased - lawsuit settled	N
				Deceased - accusation settled	N
				Deceased 2006	Y
				Deceased 2002	Y
				Deceased - accused in archdiocese records	N
				Deceased 1983	Y

## Database of accused clergy in Boston Archdiocese

At least 271 clergy have been publicly accused of child sex abuse in the Boston Archdiocese, according to a Globe review.

**2002: Church allowed abuse by priest for years**

**Spotlight: Clergy sex abuse crisis**

Between 1950 and June 2015, more than 17,600 people made clergy abuse allegations that US Catholic officials have deemed credible.

Activists have questioned if the church's count of clergy sex abuse victims is lower than the actual total.

David Clohessy, executive director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, was sharply critical of the bishops' annual reports, calling them "flawed" and "deceptive."

"Bishops' policies, procedures, protocols, and panels sound good. But they are meaningless because there's no independent monitoring or enforcement," Clohessy wrote

**View PDF**

- 1) Click the download button
- 2) This will take you to our web page
- 3) Download the FREE product

 **fromDOCtoPDF™**

**Download** 

in an e-mail. “It’s as if bishops design the game, hire the umpires, and declare themselves winners.”

The vast majority of allegations have been made by adults who have said they were abused when they were children, the church officials said. But claims have continued to come in of more recent abuse of children.

Victims who came forward during the most recent reporting year included 26 minors, the bishops’ group said. The group’s definition of “minors” included people under age 18 or anyone who “habitually lacks the use of reason.”

Seven of the 26 cases have been substantiated, while 10 remain under investigation, the church said. It considered the nine other case unsubstantiated or unable to be proven.

In addition to reviews and sanctions by church officials, allegations of sex abuse have led to criminal charges and lawsuits. Priests have been convicted and sentenced to jail. In other cases, they’ve been cleared.

More than 6,500 clerics were accused of abuse nationwide between 1950 and June 2015, church data show.

Many of the cases deemed credible by the church were alleged to have occurred from the 1960s to the 1980s. Clergy preyed upon boys in the vast majority of reported cases. The alleged abuse most often began when victims were between 10 and 14.

Between 1950 and the end of June 2015, about \$3.5 billion was spent on settlement-related costs by US church officials, according to the church.

Most of that money went to cover payouts to victims, while other sizable sums were paid for attorneys’ fees and therapy for victims and offenders.

In addition, church officials have reported spending \$300 million since 2004 on child protection efforts, including background checks and victim assistance programs.

The church was first rocked by the sex abuse crisis in 2002.

The Boston Globe won a Pulitzer Prize for its investigative team's role in exposing the abuse. The coverage was the subject of the movie "Spotlight."

The annual reports the church leaders have released on the abuse crisis since 2004 have been partly authored by the Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate.

Mary Gautier, a senior research associate there who worked on this year's report, said the number of abuse allegations has generally declined each year as spending has increased on programs designed to protect youth in the church.

"It shows the proactive attitude of the dioceses, that they're taking this seriously," she said.


But Terence McKiernan founder of [Bishop Accountability](#), an organization that tracks the abuse crisis, said holes still remain in the church's annual reports, including one introduced when the report last year began using a different reporting period for some data.

*Matt Rocheleau can be reached at [matthew.rocheleau@globe.com](mailto:matthew.rocheleau@globe.com). Follow him on Twitter @mrochele.*

Get [Today's Headlines](#) from the Globe in your inbox:

[Privacy Policy](#)

SHOW 32 COMMENTS

Stay updated, right in your news feed. 

## Top 10 Trending Articles

Most Viewed

Most Commented

Most Shared

The fight isn't going Clinton's way

NYC bomb suspect charged with attempted murder

[Why do so many veterinarians commit suicide?](#)

---

[Panicked liberals are petrified](#)

---

[A triumphant Sunday bodes well for Red Sox and Patriots](#)

---

[Trump has three paths to get to 270 electoral votes](#)

---

### Learn More

[Suspect was fixture in family's business and, lately, a 'differ...](#)

[SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTERS](#)

---

[Cape Cod boaters spot great white off Sandy Neck Beach](#)

MY ACCOUNT

[MANAGE MY ACCOUNT](#)

[Woods Hole researchers find human skeleton aboard ancie...](#)

[DOWNLOAD CUSTOMER SERVICE APP](#)

---

[Five things to know about Jacoby Brissett](#)

#### SOCIAL

[FACEBOOK](#)

[TWITTER](#)

[GOOGLE+](#)

#### CONTACT

[HELP](#)

[FAQS](#)

[GLOBE NEWSROOM](#)

[ADVERTISE](#)

#### MORE

[EPAPER](#)

[NEWS IN EDUCATION](#)

[ARCHIVES](#)

[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

[TERMS OF SERVICE](#)

[TERMS OF PURCHASE](#)

[YOUR AD CHOICES](#)

[WORK AT BOSTON GLOBE MEDIA](#)

---