



February 7, 2019

SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests
PO Box 56539
Saint Louis MO, 63156

Alameda County District Attorney's Office
1225 Fallon Street, Suite 900
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. O'Malley:

We are local volunteer leaders with SNAP, the Survivors Network for those Abused by Priests. Our group has been providing support for victims of sexual abuse in institutional settings for more than 30 years, and we have more than 25,000 survivors and supporters in our world-wide network. SNAP has had an active chapter in the Bay Area since the early 1990s.

Recently, a priest in the Oakland Diocese, Fr. Alexander Castillo, was accused of sexually abusing a minor. While that case is being investigated by the Oakland Police Department, we are writing to urge you to expand the investigation to determine whether mandatory reporters in the Diocese, including Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, failed in their duty to immediately report the allegations to appropriate law enforcement officials.

As you know, any delay in reporting not only endangers children, but also creates the opportunity for the accused or his supervisors to destroy evidence and tamper with witnesses. In the case of a foreign born cleric like Fr. Castillo, it also provides a window for the accused to flee the jurisdiction, which actually happened in the Santa Rosa Diocese in 2006 under similar circumstances.

From media reports, we know the following:

1. Fr. Castillo and priests in the Oakland Diocese were reportedly informed on January 30th that Fr. Castillo was accused of sexually abusing a minor,
2. [The next day, the Diocese issued a media advisory at 5:14 AM announcing the allegations](#), and
3. [The Oakland Police Department received the mandatory report more than five hours after that advisory](#).

However, there are additional statements in the public record that suggest that the mandatory report was delayed even more. [The Chancellor of the Diocese, Stephen Wilcox, apparently told a reporter that "the victim came forward during the past month."](#)



To deepen the mystery of how long the Diocese has known of the allegations, in a news report from February 1st, Diocesan spokesperson Helen Osman was asked if the Castillo matter contributed to the delay of publishing Oakland's list of "credibly accused" clerics. [Her response was "Yes, perhaps."](#) The Diocese announced in **November** that [the release of the names would be postponed](#).

There was obviously a delay in reporting, but whether it was hours, days, weeks, or months, is not entirely clear. We implore you to use your prosecutorial powers to not only investigate the very serious allegations against Fr. Castillo, but also to determine how long the Diocese of Oakland delayed reporting those allegations to law enforcement. The priest may well be a threat to the children, and any cover up by the Diocese endangered boys and girls in Alameda County.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Sakoda".

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A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Joey Piscitelli".

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