

Clerical Abuse and Misconduct: Diocese of Springfield in Illinois **by Gene Thomas Gomulka**

A former North American College (NAC) seminarian, Anthony Gorgia, filed an explosive lawsuit against Cardinal Timothy Dolan and NAC officials, including the NAC rector and Diocese of Springfield in Illinois priest, Father Peter Harman. Filled with graphic details, the lawsuit alleges that Gorgia was reprimed against and coerced into leaving seminary after he received word from other NAC seminarians about inappropriate physical behavior toward vulnerable seminarians by the NAC vice-rector, Washington Archdiocese priest, Father Adam Park, which Gorgia himself witnessed. The lawsuit maintains that Gorgia was perceived as a threat to revealing the depth of the secret homosexual lifestyles of NAC officials, including Harman. As such, according to the lawsuit, Harman and Dolan used entirely false and easily disprovable claims as a pretext to extract Gorgia from the seminary without any justification.

A priest with decades of seminary experience attested to the fact that no seminarian is discontinued just three months into the academic year after having just received the faculty's unanimous vote to advance to that year, as Gorgia did, or having a stellar and exemplary record, as Gorgia had, on the basis of absurd reasons. If a seminarian is discontinued in the middle of an academic year, it is either because he has discerned he is not called to priesthood, or because he committed a serious offense. Insofar as neither of these conditions apply to Gorgia, the real motives of Harman, Dolan, and complicit clerics' actions demand explanation.

To understand why Dolan had such an intense interest in covering up misconduct at the expense of causing harm to Gorgia, one needs to consider the ordeal Father Ryszard Biernat suffered in the Diocese of Buffalo. When then-seminarian Biernat from Poland was working in a Buffalo parish over the summer, he alleged that the pastor, Father Art Smith, entered his bedroom at night and attempted to engage him in gay sex. When he reported the sexual assault to Auxiliary Bishop Edward Grosz, Biernat was told he would be deported and never be ordained a priest if he reported the incident. What Biernat did not know at that time was that Grosz and Smith were classmates in the seminary together, or that what happened to him was a crime. Likewise, when Dolan conspired with Harman to spontaneously prevent Gorgia from returning to the NAC, Gorgia did not know that accused-Omaha Archbishop George Lucas, Harman's bishop from 1999 to 2009, was one year ahead of Dolan in the seminary. Dolan and Lucas were known to have been very good friends as they lived and studied together in St. Louis for seven years. Not only was Dolan a close friend of Lucas, but he also had ties to Harman who lived with Dolan at the NAC for 5 years from 1995 to 2000 when Dolan was the rector from 1994 to 2001. It was Dolan who approved Harman for ordination to the diaconate in 1998 and to the priesthood in 1999. With both Lucas and Harman implicated in the lawsuit brought forward by Gorgia, it is obvious why Dolan would desire to shield Lucas, his former seminary-companion, and Harman, his former seminarian, from shocking allegations.

The following study of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois will provide important insights into why Father Harman and the vice-rector, Father Adam Park, feared Gorgia's return to the NAC following his November 2018 surgery in New York, and why Cardinal Dolan refused Gorgia's five requests for a meeting with him regarding the matter.

Bishop Daniel Ryan

Daniel Ryan was ordained a priest on May 3, 1956. He served in five different parishes in the Diocese of Joliet in addition to serving as the chancellor and vicar general. A number of young men whose vocations he helped foster in Joliet were later accused of molesting boys. One such priest, Father Lawrence Gibbs, was sued for raping a 13-year-old altar boy. Ryan was named a co-defendant in that suit which was settled out of court.

Ryan was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet in 1981 under Bishop Joseph Imesch. Consistent with Imesch's record of transferring abusive priests, Ryan was later installed as the Bishop of Springfield in Illinois in January of 1984. As Springfield's Bishop, one of the young men Ryan accepted to study for the priesthood was Peter Harman. After graduating from Quincy Notre Dame High School in 1991, Harman was sent by Ryan to study at Saint Meinrad College Seminary which was rumored for years to foster an active gay subculture. In 1995 Harman was sent to study theology in Rome one year after Timothy Dolan was appointed the NAC rector. Harman was approved by Dolan for ordination and was ordained a priest by Bishop Ryan in July of 1999, three months before Ryan's resignation on October 19, 1999.

In light of research by the late A.W. Richard Sipe showing how sexually abusive bishops like ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick abused seminarians and priests who then went on to become sexual predators and/or to engage in non-consensual gay sex with other adults, it is worthwhile to look at what negative impact disgraced Bishop Ryan may have had on Father Harman and other priests of the Springfield Diocese.

It was already during Ryan's first year in office that he was alleged to have solicited sex from teenage boys. The alleged abuse that occurred in 1984 was not reported until July of 2002, at which time the Sangamon County state's attorney said he could not prosecute because the statute of limitations had expired. Frank Anthony Thomas Sigretto was one of four men who accused Ryan of sexual abuse. Sigretto's testimony was supported by a former Springfield priest, the Rev. John Reeves, who wrote in a seven-page statement that Ryan had made sexual advances toward him when Reeves was both a seminarian and a young priest beginning in the fall of 1984. Reeves said he and Ryan traveled and dined together; shared motel rooms; visited bathhouses; and vacationed in the Cayman Islands and Puerto Rico. Reeves said he was afraid to reject Ryan's advances for fear he would not be ordained.

It was also alleged that Ryan was sexually involved with a prostitute, Danny Evans, in 1985. Evans claimed in a 14-page transcript of an interview with Springfield Attorney Frederic Nessler that he went to motels with Ryan on more than 50 occasions from the 1980s through the late 1990s. Evans also said that Ryan took him on trips to Indiana, Ohio, Chicago and Wisconsin.

Frank Bergen alleged that Ryan gave him money for sex beginning when he was 16 years old. Like Danny Evans, Bergen admitted to having been addicted to drugs at a young age. When questioned by attorneys who were representing clients bringing suit against Ryan and the Diocese of Springfield, Bergen said he was heterosexual and only engaged in homosexual acts for money to feed his drug habit. Most Catholics have no idea what really is done with the hard-earned money they contribute to the Church.

In 1996 Stephen Brady, a devout Catholic, U.S. Army veteran from Petersburg, Illinois, formed Roman Catholic Faithful (RCF). Brady, the father of seven children, gained notoriety four years earlier for a pro-life billboard he had erected that called out the local school board for inviting Planned Parenthood to offer a sex education program.

Not long after Brady founded RCF, two Springfield priests, Father John Reeves and "John Doe," revealed to him that they had been sexually assaulted by Bishop Ryan. Two other priests reported similar experiences with Ryan but did not want Brady to mention them even anonymously for fear of reprisals. When Brady reported the matter to Lucas' metropolitan archbishop, Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, he received a response dated June 24, 1996. At this time, then-Monsignor Thomas Paprocki was Bernardin's chancellor. The letter, which came from Bernardin's Chief of Staff, stated that the cardinal "does not feel...it would be appropriate for him to enter into matters not pertaining directly to his archdiocese." Brady was led to question Bernardin's own sexual orientation when Bernardin abdicated his duty as Ryan's metropolitan in the letter which ended with, "Such responsibility rests with the local bishop." Knowing that a homosexually active bishop is not going to investigate or sanction himself,

Brady realized that Bernardin's recommendation that the allegations against Ryan be referred to Ryan himself would yield no results.

Brady was aware of the fact that in 1994 Steven Cook had accused Cardinal Bernardin of abusing him when he was a teenage seminarian in Cincinnati where Bernardin was the Archbishop from 1972 to 1982. Just one year prior, in 1993, a separate individual had reported to the Archdiocese of Chicago and the US Nunciature allegations that Bernardin, along with Bernardin's Charleston Ordinary, Bishop John J. Russell, had sexually assaulted him in a satanic ritual. While the mainstream media reported that Cook recanted his abuse charges against Bernardin before Cook died of AIDS in September of 1995, it has also been a common practice to pay huge settlements to abuse victims in exchange for recanting the abuse they reported. According to Richard Sipe, "the Chicago Archdiocese's pay off to Cook before Cook died of AIDS was in the \$3 million range." Sipe also pointed out that "Several priests who were associates of Bernardin prior to his move to Chicago revealed that they had 'partied' together; they talked about their visits to the Josephinum to socialize with seminarians." The accusations of Cook and the other victim against Bernardin were squelched at the very same time then-Monsignor Paprocki was Bernardin's chancellor, a position Paprocki held from 1992 to 2000. Documentation kept in the secret vault of the Archdiocese of Chicago from 1993 through 1995 reveal that "the archdiocese of Chicago, the US papal nuncio, the Vatican Secretariat of State and even the papal household all knew of the allegations and yet failed to act on them." Brady's interaction with Bernardin led him to conclude that Ryan had many protectors among the hierarchy who adhered to a code of silence especially when it came to covering for cardinals and bishops who engaged in homosexual predation and behavior. In fact, it was later reported in the media that "Bernardin's entire public career was one of warm relationships with promoters of homosexuality."

After Brady received no help from Bernardin in addressing Ryan's abuse of Fathers Reeves and "Doe," he was contacted by two other Springfield priests who confidentially said they were also victims of Ryan's unwanted advances. Brady then prepared a confidential report of the priests' allegations which were then hand-carried by Father John A. Hardon, SJ, to the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan. Instead of initiating an investigation into the abuse allegations involving Bishop Ryan, the Pro-Nuncio betrayed confidentiality and sent a copy of the report and the names of the accusers back to Bishop Ryan. Cacciavillan had no intention of interviewing the victims before declaring the case "closed." Two of the four priests Brady interviewed ended up leaving not only the priesthood, but also the Catholic Church.

After having lost confidence in the Pro-Nuncio, Father Hardon and Father "John Doe" flew to Rome in February of 1997 where they met with Archbishop Darío Castrillón Hoyos, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy. After examining the evidence accumulated by RCF, Castrillón Hoyos arranged for Father "Doe" to work in the Archdiocese of Detroit, but no action was taken against Ryan. When the Vatican failed to intervene and Ryan continued to remain in power, Brady felt compelled to act especially after Ryan's spokeswoman, Kathleen Saas, gave an interview to *The Daily Pantagraph* of Bloomington in which she called the allegations against Ryan "based in ignorance."

When Saas's interview caught the eye of a prostitute who was familiar with the street life of the city, she contacted Brady and provided him with extensive information about two male hustlers who were picked up on several occasions by Ryan whom they referred to as "the Bish." When Brady announced he would be conducting a press conference during which new evidence against Ryan would be revealed, Brady was contacted by Jimmy Lago, Chicago Cardinal Francis George's representative, who got Brady to cancel the December 30, 1997 press conference with the promise that the Chicago Archdiocese would conduct a serious investigation into the allegations against Ryan. When the Chicago Archdiocese fell through on the promise of an investigation and Lago instead made a public statement on January 6, 1998 claiming that "There's a lot of allegations, but no proof," Brady felt betrayed and rescheduled the press conference.

Despite efforts from Cardinal George and other Chicago ecclesiastical authorities to get Brady to call off the press conference, the very moving and emotional event took place on January 15, 1998 with over seventy people in attendance including various media representatives.

Despite a plethora of evidence and testimony of witnesses about Ryan's immoral and predatory behavior, the Vatican and various US ecclesiastical officials continued to do nothing to curb Ryan's behavioral problems. The following year, on April 18, 1999, RCF held a public meeting at which it released details of its two-year investigation of Bishop Ryan's misconduct. It was not until six months following this meeting that Ryan announced his resignation on October 19, 1999.

When interviewed by representatives of the media, Ryan denied that allegations of sexual misconduct directed at him over the years by Stephen Brady, RCF, and numerous witnesses/victims had played a part in his resignation. When asked to comment, Brady responded, "Obviously we are delighted at the announcement of Ryan's resignation, but we are very sad that it took the Holy See almost three years to act. The damage that Ryan has done since we first notified the Holy See of his homosexual activity with prostitutes and others is monumental."

One week after Ryan's resignation, attorneys for a 30-year old former altar boy filed suit against the Springfield Diocese alleging that their client was "sexually assaulted, battered, and psychologically abused" by Rev. Alvin J. Campbell. Ryan was also named in the lawsuit for covering up Campbell's abuse of Matthew McCormick and seven other boys in 1985. McCormick's lawyer, Frederic Nessler, said that Bishop Ryan created an "atmosphere of tolerance to the sexual abuse of minors."

On March 14, 2003, Stephen Brady of RCF testified before the National Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People about Bishop Ryan who, although retired for over three years, was still sexually active. Brady observed, "Despite many years of rampant sexual misconduct and flagrant abuse of his episcopal authority, which included having sexual relations with underage boys, Bishop Ryan was protected by members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in order to save themselves embarrassment and in some cases to prevent the spotlighting of their own compromising situations. The hierarchy involved in this cover-up showed no concern at all for Ryan's victims, both adult and underage males."

Bishop George Lucas

Ryan was succeeded by St. Louis-priest George Lucas who was the Bishop of Springfield from 1999 to 2009. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Lucas attended local minor (high school) and college seminaries along with Timothy Dolan who was one year behind Lucas at both institutions. While Lucas graduated from Cardinal Glennon College in 1971 and went on to study theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, Dolan graduated in 1972 and was sent to study in Rome with residence at the Pontifical North American College.

Lucas was ordained a priest in 1975 and served as the vice-rector of St. Louis Preparatory Seminary from 1982 to 1987. A former seminarian alleged in 2006 that Lucas, while the vice-rector in 1987, made sexual advances toward him, asking what he liked sexually and if he liked older men. The former high school seminarian, who was 17 years old at the time, said he rejected Lucas' multiple advances and later left the seminary.

From 1995 to 1999, Lucas was named the rector of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. After securing prominent positions in the St. Louis Archdiocese, both Lucas and Dolan became bishops under Archbishop Justin Rigali. Lucas was named the Bishop of Springfield in Illinois in 1999. The three consecrating bishops at Lucas' episcopal ordination on December 14, 1999 were Chicago Cardinal Francis George, accused-

Bishop Daniel Ryan, and Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo Higuera. Cardinal George is proven to have covered up Ryan's scandalous and immoral behavior for years which had also been reported to senior Church officials at the Nunciature in Washington, DC and in the Vatican. The fact that Ryan himself was one of the co-consecrators would lead one to believe that Lucas was hand-picked to do damage control and to take care of Ryan in retirement.

Bishop Lucas purchased a new home for Ryan within St. Agnes parish, the same parish where Father Harman was assigned. Despite allegations of sexual misconduct brought against him, Ryan was permitted by Lucas to help out in parishes and officiate at confirmations in the Springfield and Joliet dioceses while Ryan remained sexually active.

Ryan stepped down from public ministry in September of 2002 when he was accused of abusing a minor in 1984. Although he no longer officiated at services, Ryan continued to engage in the behavior that resulted in his early retirement. On July 5, 2004, Ryan was alleged in a "Domestic Battery" police report to have kicked his "sex partner" Timothy Hugo after Hugo confronted Ryan for making advances toward his boyfriend. The incident took place at Ryan's home, which Hugo believed Lucas knew Ryan was using for sexual encounters.

Hugo also reported witnessing Ryan and the pastor, "Father Bob," kissing and hugging each other in St. Agnes rectory where Father Peter Harman served as the associate pastor. Hugo described Father Bob as a "tall, dark and handsome man of about maybe 47 years old, with salt and pepper hair."

Father Harman was followed at St. Agnes by Father Joseph Havrilka who was ordained on May 28, 2005. In September of 2005, just three months after Havrilka reported to St. Agnes following his ordination, the pastor, Father Robert Jallas, announced that Havrilka would be going on an indefinite leave of absence for "psychological and personal issues." Havrilka, having served as a religious brother for over 20 years before being ordained at the age of 48, was accused of "inappropriate touching" by one of his young parishioners.

Even though Springfield diocesan officials and the Vatican were presented with indisputable evidence of Ryan's ongoing involvement with male prostitutes, Ryan and other homosexual priests continued to engage in immoral homosexual acts long after Lucas was installed as the ordinary. Upon the passing of Bishop Ryan and Joliet Bishop Joseph Imesch some years later, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) stated in a news release, "These two prelates, like nearly all of their U.S. colleagues, deserve little or no praise. They protected predators. They endangered innocent children. They kept crimes hidden from police."

It was only a few years after Lucas was installed that he announced the "promotion" of 15 Springfield priests who were to be awarded the honorific title of "Monsignor." Interestingly, a number of these new monsignors were known to have either covered up for Ryan over the years or to have engaged in homosexual behavior themselves with male prostitutes or with one another. A number of those Lucas rewarded for covering up for his predecessor include priests like former Springfield Chancellor, Eugene Costa; John Renken, who served as Ryan's Vicar General; and Thomas Holinga, the Director of Clergy Personnel who was one of Ryan's frequent traveling companions. Costa was shortly after found beaten in Springfield's Douglas Park, a place known for gay activity. The police later arrested two teenagers, ages 15 and 17, who pled guilty to beating Costa while claiming he offered them \$50.00 for sexual favors. Renken and Holinga were both found to have covered up reports from priests who provided graphic details about how, when, and where Ryan sexually harassed and abused them over the years. Renken, who was a past president of the Canon Law Society and who was appointed in 2002 to serve on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People, lived for over ten years with Msgr. Kenneth Steffen as "co-pastors" of a small rural parish

in Riverton, Illinois. Steffen left the diocese reportedly to “receive physical, emotional and holistic healing,” only to be permitted to return to ministry where he was accused in 2017 of stealing approximately \$70,000 from Saints Peter and Paul parish in Alton, Illinois. Renken likewise left the diocese after his relationship with Steffen and other homosexuals became public. While Renken is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Canon Law at St. Paul University in Ottawa, Steffen is retired with priestly faculties limited to ministry to residents of St. Joseph’s Home in Springfield where he resides.

It was the appointment of some of these and other known allegedly immoral Monsignors that led Stephen Brady to offer the following observations in an RCF newsletter: 1) Many homosexuals have lied, stolen, and blackmailed their way into the priesthood and chancery positions; 2) Homosexual bishops increase in numbers and recruit and reward their sexual partners with the priesthood; and 3) Sexually-active bishops employ other sexual deviants and cafeteria Catholics within their chanceries to keep their secrets safe.

Grave allegations have also come to light regarding homosexual behavior on the part of Bishop Lucas and other priests and seminarians of the Springfield Diocese. Just as evidence proved that Bishop Ryan was paying poor kids to provide sexual services for him which often helped them to pay for their drug habits, so too does detailed and credible accounts allege that Bishop Lucas, Monsignors Renken, Steffen, Lantz, and Dominican Father Clinton Honkomp were recipients of sexual favors.

At the end of December 2004, Stephen Brady and a trained investigator video recorded an interview with Thomas Muñoz, a Hispanic Catholic, who at the time was 37 years old. Muñoz recounted participating in an orgy in the episcopal residence of Bishop Lucas during which he witnessed Lucas engaging in anal sex with Father Peter Harman. He also described other gay sex acts involving Springfield priests, seminarians, and one layperson like himself who had no official financial ties to the diocese.

When Father Eugene Costa, the Springfield Chancellor who was made a Monsignor by Bishop Lucas, was found beaten in a park know to be frequented by gays, Muñoz feared he was being falsely accused of the assault when he was approached by detectives investigating the incident. Muñoz said he had been paid to have sex with Bishop Lucas and a number of Springfield priests. Because he knew all about their double lives, he feared they would either try to have him arrested and sent to prison for something he didn’t do, or possibly kill him. He wrote Brady stating, “I will probably end up dead sooner or later over this but I am tired of this torture chamber.”

Following the interview with Muñoz, Brady sent a letter to the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo Higuera, dated January 6, 2005, informing him of the orgy involving Lucas, as well as Monsignors Renken and Steffen among others. That same day Brady also sent a letter to Father Peter Harman insofar as Harman was named as a participant in the orgy. Harman’s response, dated January 10, 2005, read as if it were written by a lawyer. The most remarkable line in Harman’s letter is where he encourages Brady to report the allegations involving him, Lucas and other priests to none other than Lucas himself: “Because Bishop Lucas has asked everyone, clergy and laity alike, to address to him any such allegations about wrongdoing by anyone officially representing the church, I would urge you to assist this individual to seek his assistance.” Brady responded to Harman by writing, “In your letter you suggest this individual approach Bishop Lucas. That statement would be laughable if this were not such a serious issue, especially considering that his name was mentioned in conjunction with yours. We were also given an alleged detailed description of a certain part of your anatomy. The individual jumped at the chance for a polygraph examination which suggests he has nothing to hide.”

The person who administered the polygraph exam was William O’Sullivan of the Ross Agency who was contracted by William Roberts. Instead of asking Muñoz, “Did you witness Bishop Lucas and Father Harman engaging in anal sex?” O’Sullivan had the polygrapher ask Muñoz, “Did YOU have sex with Bishop Lucas?” To appreciate how this was a “set up,” consider how a cleaning lady at the White House

who reported seeing the president and a White House intern having sex might react if, instead of being asked, “Did you witness President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky having sex?”, she were asked, “Did YOU have sex with President Clinton?” Might the needle on the polygraph machine jump considerably if the cleaning lady were asked this question? And when the needle jumped, would it be fair to conclude that she were lying about what she said she witnessed? I don’t think so.

The Special Panel tried to make out as if Muñoz did not pass the test, although the truth is that the Special Panel had neither interviewed Muñoz nor administered a valid polygraph to him. Had they actually believed Lucas was innocent, one would wonder why the Panel did not arrange for Lucas, Harman or any of the other alleged attendees at the orgy to be administered a polygraph test. Ordinarily, people who are telling the truth often want to be given a polygraph test to strengthen the credibility of their testimony. Lest they be contradicted by witnesses and evidence against them, none of the alleged participants in the orgy went on record in the Special Panel’s report as proclaiming themselves innocent.

What happened next reminds me of many so-called “investigations” I had to investigate when I served on the Inspector General Team at Headquarters Marine Corps. A commanding officer would be accused of wrongdoing and he would then have his Admin officer or someone else who reported to him in the chain of command undertake an “investigation” into the allegations against him which would inevitably find him innocent. Lucas used the same tactic by retaining a lawyer, William Roberts, to head a Special Panel which, in a later published report, identified its task as investigating “allegations of misconduct by priests of the diocese.” Note that the Panel’s report did not read “allegations of misconduct by Bishop Lucas and priests of the diocese.” Roberts shielded Lucas’ name and the name of his reported homosexual lover, Father Peter Harman, from inclusion in this sentence because the real motive of the so-called “investigation” was specifically to clear Lucas and those surrounding him of accusations that he, along with priests from his diocese, engaged in “homosexual activities.” Lucas’ strategy resembles how the Vatican dealt with reports from mother superiors that African bishops wanted them to make their sisters available to priests for sex in an effort to reduce the clerical death rate from AIDS. Instead of investigating the claims it received, the Vatican forwarded the complaints to the offending bishops who retaliated by having the mother superiors removed for making these reports. When one nun was impregnated by a priest, he forced her to have an abortion which resulted in her death. It was the priest who got her pregnant who then conducted her funeral Mass. Insofar as both Lucas himself and Father Peter Harman, his alleged “homosexual lover,” were reported to the Vatican for engaging in "homosexual activities," this so-called "investigation" headed by Attorney Roberts was no different than had former President Bill Clinton himself appointed a lawyer of his own choosing to investigate claims that he was having sex with a White House intern.

When the Catholic News Agency (CNA) reported the allegations of sexual conduct against Bishop Lucas were “[proven false](#),” no one questioned the findings or the methodology of having Lucas investigate himself. If an attorney like Roberts were to represent a person accused of murder, and if in the course of the representation he were to believe that his client were guilty, he could not let this be made known. Likewise, by retaining Roberts, Lucas was assured that no matter what Roberts uncovered, he would not be allowed to make that information public without the risk of being disbarred.

It would not be until years later, in 2021, that Mr. Kenneth McCabe, a highly-credentialed retired FBI Special Agent in Charge (SAC) would question the validity of the conclusions drawn by the 2006 Special Panel with respect to Lucas and Harman. McCabe found Muñoz’s account of the orgy to be “entirely credible.” In a sworn affidavit filed with the Court, the former FBI SAC argued that the diocese never authentically investigated the accusations against Lucas and Harman. Several months prior to McCabe’s Court filing, I attempted to contact Mr. Roberts on two occasions about a number of concerns regarding the Panel’s conclusions, but Mr. Roberts failed to respond. With the accusations remaining without a truly impartial investigation, Bishop Paprocki has permitted Peter Harman to serve on the NAC faculty since

2013 before being installed as the rector in February of 2016, despite his alleged sexual history involving seminarians.

Despite the fact that the Nunciature was well-informed of Ryan's and Lucas' legacy of sexual misconduct and cover-up, Lucas was promoted by being named the Archbishop of Omaha in 2009. Monsignor Kevin Vann, who defended Lucas in a homily delivered on February 19, 2005, more than a month after the orgy at which he was reported to have been present, was later recommended by Lucas to be made a bishop. Vann was appointed coadjutor bishop of Fort Worth in 2005, and he was later installed as the Bishop of Orange on December 10, 2012. Vann also currently serves as a member of the NAC Board of Governors.

Bishop Thomas Paprocki

Ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1978, Paprocki rose to prominence under Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, who was among those noted for covering up the sexual activity of Springfield Bishop Ryan. While Paprocki served as chancellor from 1992 to 2000, it was found that the review board under his direction "wasn't reading full reports on accused priests or interviewing either accusers or the accused" and was alleged in some cases to "take extraordinary steps" to keep certain predator priests in parishes with parishioners kept unaware of the priests' abusive backgrounds. Paprocki is only one of countless chancery officials who was rewarded by being made a bishop for concealing the true extent of clerical sexual predation within the Church. After being appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago in 2003 under Cardinal George, who himself was found to be deeply invested in Springfield's cover-ups, Paprocki was installed as the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois on June 22, 2010.

Just as Paprocki was criticized in Chicago for allowing priests known to engage in homosexual predation and behavior to remain in ministry, so too does evidence indicate that there have been quite a number of sexually-active priests under Paprocki's supervision in Springfield. One chronology alone names approximately twenty Springfield priests spanning as recently as 2018 who have been accused of acts of sexual misconduct with seminarians, young males, and other adult men. Paprocki has allowed a stunning majority of these priests to remain uninvestigated and to remain in active ministry in Springfield parishes, schools, and curial offices. While the Springfield Diocese under Paprocki seems to have taken great lengths to avoid investigating accused clerics, whistleblowers who attempted to report predatory clerics found themselves mistreated. Paprocki was even alleged in 2014 to have removed a heterosexual deacon from his ministry after he rejected homosexual advances by a priest who to this day remains a Springfield Pastor.

Like bishops of most dioceses, Paprocki has faced problems on the part of Springfield clerics who have been accused of misconduct involving drugs, sex, or alcohol which often involves embezzling parish funds. Such a case involved Father Barry Harmon whom Paprocki removed as pastor of two parishes in November of 2017. While the reason given was that he was going on a "medical leave of absence," it was later discovered that Harmon had "misspent" more than \$20,000 from Mother of Dolors parish just as he was alleged to have embezzled \$40,000 from St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in 2005.

A search of Father Harmon's rectory in Vandalia while he was away in a treatment facility led to scandalous discoveries. In addition to uncovering homosexual pornography and drug paraphernalia, it was reported that the diocese confiscated a video of a rectory party in which priests were seen dressed in drag. People who viewed the video identified six Springfield priests among the participants. Only one of the six, Harmon, has been removed from ministry, and a certain number of them presently serve on Paprocki's diocesan leadership team.

In December of 2018, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan blasted Cardinal Blase Cupich and the bishops of Illinois for hiding the names of at least 500 clerics who were credibly accused of sexually

abusing children. The following day, SNAP members and others demonstrated across from Springfield's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception holding signs with the names of Fathers Henry Willenborg and Thomas Meyer, two predator priests they accused Bishop Paprocki of leaving off its list of the credibly accused clerics.

Paprocki's response was not well-received when he remarked, "A virtuous intent to protect the faithful from scandal unfortunately prevented the transparency and awareness that has helped us confront this problem more directly over the past fifteen years." David Clohessy from SNAP responded to Paprocki's "virtuous" reference by saying, "Cover-ups are selfish, not virtuous, and continuing to cover for predator priests at this juncture is both selfish and irresponsible." Clohessy said it was "disingenuous" for Paprocki to point out that people didn't publicly discuss these kinds of "salacious allegations" because a key reason is that bishops hid abuse reports.

Bishop Paprocki's questionable handling of misconduct is once again coming to light in New York State Supreme Court for the way he failed to investigate grave allegations against Father Peter Harman. In a letter dated April 22, 2020, Paprocki and other ordinaries received a request for an investigation of Father Harman and his vice-rector, Father Adam Park, who were alleged to be homosexuals who were discriminating against Anthony Gorgia, a heterosexual seminarian, whom they feared might "out" them. Paprocki was informed that "What happened to Anthony is potentially suggestive of gay church officials abusing their power and repressing against heterosexually oriented vulnerable seminarians." Paprocki had also received and ignored numerous other communications on the matter as far back as February of 2019, where multiple concerned individuals requested that he open an investigation into Harman's actions. The reports requested that Paprocki, as Harman's superior, "conduct an unbiased and thorough investigation so that justice can be done ..." and that Gorgia be granted "an opportunity to present his case and evidence ... for further review."

When Paprocki and the other ordinaries failed to acknowledge or respond to the April 22, 2020 letter and many other communications, every US ordinary received reports dated May 8, June 18, June 27, July 3, and July 16 of 2020 in which the allegations Paprocki ignored were addressed in detail. Paprocki has to this day failed to protect vulnerable seminarians by allowing Harman to remain in ministry while the allegations are moving through the Court.

Just as many bishops and priests covered-up for ex-Cardinal McCarrick who preyed particularly upon seminarians and young priests, it appears that Cardinal Dolan is covering up for his old friend, Archbishop Lucas, and for Father Peter Harman; as well as for Father Adam Park who knows the secrets of both retired Cardinal Donald Wuerl and ex-Cardinal McCarrick. Likewise, Paprocki has joined in the cover-up for Harman and Park which appears to stem from Paprocki's relationship with Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Park's Ordinary, as they rose to power together under Bernardin in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Recent media reports have been filled with headlines of bishops being removed from their posts after they were exposed for engaging in or covering up sexual predation involving minors, seminarians, or other vulnerable adults. With over 30 US and Vatican bishops implicated in the concealment of sexual misconduct at the NAC, it will be interesting to see if they will face the same disciplinary actions incurred by NAC Board of Governors member, Bishop Michael Hoeppner, who was forced to resign as Bishop of Crookston when his record of abuse cover-up was revealed.

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Prelate of Honor (Monsignor) the same year the Secretary of the Navy presented him with the Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for “literary achievement and inspirational leadership.”