



July 19, 2019

Dear Confreres & Friends of the Abbey,

Several dioceses and religious communities across the United States have made public lists of clergy with credible allegations of sexual abuse of minors. In the spirit of accountability, I have decided to release these names from St. Norbert Abbey. My hope is that the ‘release of names’ will assist in the healing process for victims and survivors. I profoundly apologize and ask forgiveness from those abused by the Norbertines of our Abbey.

Beginning in 2018, I turned over personnel files to Praesidium, Inc. for an independent review. Praesidium, Inc. is based in Arlington, Texas, with national and international clients. They specialize in abuse risk assessment and management for secular and religious organizations. Their professional team is comprised of psychologists, social workers, lawyers and human resource personnel.

The purpose of the file review was to identify any Norbertine with a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor. The reviewed files covered the years 1966 through 2018. Praesidium identified 19 Norbertines from St. Norbert Abbey. In addition, 3 other priests from different Norbertine foundations were identified. Their superiors have been notified.

As I stated before, I will never tolerate sex abuse by anyone. When the Abbey receives an allegation, it will immediately be reported to civil authorities and the Norbertine will be removed from ministry. The protection of children is of utmost importance and I do not take this responsibility lightly.

At this time, I wish to thank my brother Norbertines who have remained faithful witnesses and ministers of the Gospel. It is through your dedicated service that God will bring healing and peace to our troubled church.

As we move forward, we hope to be transparent and honest about the failings that have occurred through members of our Abbey. Our list of credible allegations will be updated if new credible allegations are made and confirmed.

I ask for your prayers for all victims and survivors of sexual abuse.

In Christ, through Mary and Norbert,

Rt. Rev. Dane Radecki, O. Praem.  
Abbot – St. Norbert Abbey