



# NEWS RELEASE

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

**For Immediate Release**  
**Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020**

**Contact:** Kevin Eckery  
916-296-5945 (cell)

## **San Diego Diocese's Statement Regarding New Lawsuits**

SAN DIEGO (Jan. 2, 2020) --While we can't respond to any specifics involved in these lawsuits, five of the six men mentioned in today's news conference are known sexual predators whose names have been published on our [website](#). All of the men are dead. Two of them belong to Catholic religious orders (Koerner and Marron) and were not San Diego diocesan priests. The sixth, Alexander Pinter, came from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, was briefly in San Diego in the early 1960's, but eventually moved to the Diocese of Oakland. Both dioceses have published Pinter's name on their list of accused priests, but no complaint about Pinter was ever received in the Diocese of San Diego.

At least one of these men was rightfully sent to prison for his crimes. Our hearts and prayers and deepest apologies go out to their victims and all victims of clergy sex abuse.

Regardless of the legal issues involved, we have a moral obligation to provide assistance to any victim-survivor of that abuse and we would urge their attorney to contact us so that counseling can be arranged at our expense. There are no prior conditions and the offer of counseling stands regardless of any lawsuit against the diocese.

The sexual abuse of minors is evil, regardless of when it happens. As a result of various [reforms](#) in 2002 and earlier, including mandatory Safe Environment training for clergy and all church workers, annual age-appropriate safety training for students in Catholic schools and religious education, enhanced criminal background checks and enhanced awareness and vigilance, no new incidents of abuse have been reported to the diocese in nearly two decades.

Details about the [steps](#) the diocese has taken to prevent and report abuse can be found on our website at [www.safeinourdiocese.org](http://www.safeinourdiocese.org).

Finally, we would also invite any victim-survivor of sexual abuse to participate in the [Independent Compensation Program](#) established last fall as an additional avenue they can use to pursue their legal claims. There are no costs or obligation to victims. If they go through the program and reject the compensation offer, they receive, they have not given up their right to pursue their claim in the courts. In most cases, a qualifying victim-survivor will receive an offer within 90 days of their claim being finalized.

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