

## News Advisory

**To:** All Concerned  
(One-Page FAX)  
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### **Status of Investigations of Allegations Against Catholic Priests in Wayne County**

Wayne County Prosecutor Mike Duggan held a press conference today, Thursday, May 9, during which he presented a *Summary of the Status of Investigations of Allegations Against Catholic Priests* that included a *Report and Recommendations*. Other than the cases against Fr. Sito and Fr. Houndjame, all reported incidents occurred between 1943-1992.

Duggan noted the material turned over to his office by the Archdiocese of Detroit contained allegations by 50 victims against 37 priests. A review of those files shows that the 37 accused break down as follows:

<b>Died</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Removed by archdiocese or retired</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Moved out of the state or country</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Still serving in a parish</b>	<b>5</b>

Duggan indicated the statute of limitations will be an obstacle in most, if not all, of these cases. Despite that, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office is opening investigations into allegations against 16 priests in the following categories:

- 1) Moved out of state, possibly still prosecutable under statute of limitations** 4
- 2) History suggests the possibility there may be more recent victims** 4
- 3) Priest is still serving in a parish because archdiocese did not deem allegations sufficiently credible for removal** 5
- 4) Recent report to prosecutor's office regarding priest not previously investigated by archdiocese** 3

In response to interview requests, the Archdiocese of Detroit held a press briefing today with Ned McGrath, director of communications, and Msgr. Walter Hurley, Cardinal Maida's liaison for misconduct policy review. At the briefing, McGrath and Hurley noted they welcomed this review by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and similar reviews by the prosecutors of other counties located in the archdiocese.

At the briefing, it was announced that one priest who had been working in a restricted ministry in the Archdiocese of Detroit was being placed on a leave of absence and prohibited from any public ministry. Further details concerning this priest will be forthcoming from the archdiocese within the next day or so.