

Timeline of Fr. Nicholas Aguilar-Rivera

- 9/10/41 Born in Huehuetlan El Chico, Puebla, Mexico.
- late 60's Anonymous report in 2005 by seminary classmate that Nicholas tried to molest him while in seminary.
- late 60's Jorge Cadena, former seminary classmate of Nicholas Aguilar, said that he knew of attack on another seminary classmate and that everyone knew to stay away from Aguilar. Cadena reported this to the priests in charge of the seminary. The priests kicked Cadena out of school.
- 7/27/70 Ordained in Diocese of Tehuacan, Mexico.
- 1976 Father Aguilar became the first parish priest of San Sebastian Parish in Cuacnopalan.
- 1986/87 Nicholas Aguilar was brutally beaten at the parish residence. Police suspect one or more of the many young male visitors to the rectory, but the priest asks that the case not be prosecuted.
- 1/27/87 Bishop Norberto Rivera, Bishop of Tehuacan writes letter of presentation, including photograph to Archbishop Roger Mahony regarding Nicholas Aguilar. In that letter Bishop Rivera told Mahony that the reason for the transfer was "family and health reasons." Rivera declared that "the phrase 'family and health reasons' was used within the Church to warn that a priest suffers from some sort of problem." He stated that he anticipated that Mahony would request a more detailed account of Aguilar's problems.
- Feb/early March 1987 Bishop Norberto Rivera transferred Nicholas Aguilar to the Archdiocese of Angeles, where Archbishop Mahony was in charge.
- 3/16/87 Archbishop Mahony appointed Aguilar as associate pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Los Angeles.
- March-May 1987 An Aguilar victim, a child, told Juan Robles, a part-time caretaker at Our Lady of Guadalupe, about Aguilar. When interviewed, Robles only remembers the child asking him if Aguilar was a "faggot."
- 3/23/87 According to Bishop Rivera - he sent Archbishop Mahony a confidential letter that "provided a summary of [Aguilar's] homosexual problems." [Mahony denies receiving letter]
- 5/18/87 Archbishop Mahony transferred Aguilar to St. Agatha in Los Angeles as Associate Pastor.

12/1987 Two altar boys at Our Lady of Guadalupe told their mom that Aguilar abused them.

1987
date unclear
sometime b/w
Dec - 1/8/87 Mother of two altar boys report abuse to Fr. Bill McClean, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LA. Fr. McClean was a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, under Mahony's supervision.

1/6/88 [Victims or family] [redacted] contacted by Nicholas Aguilar. Aguilar told them to drop the charges.

1/6/88-1/8/88 LA Archdiocese was notified of Aguilar's molestations.

1/8/88 Fr. McClean contacted Msgr. Thomas Curry, vicar of clerics, to report Aguilar's abuse of children.

1/9/88 Msgr. Curry confronted Aguilar with the allegations, removed his facilities, and placed him on administrative leave. Aguilar told Msgr. Curry that Aguilar was going to return to Mexico.

Evening 1/9/88 Aguilar taken to Tijuana, Mexico.

1/11/88 Principal at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sister Renee (one of the people working underneath Mahony) reported abuse to police.

1/11/88 LA Times reported that LA police are investigating 18 sex abuse claims against Fr. Aguilar.

1988 LA police indicated that Aguilar abused at least 26 boys in 9 months in US.

3/4/88 Archbishop Mahony wrote to Bishop Rivera about Aguilar:

"It is almost impossible to determine precisely the number of young altar boys he has sexually molested, but the number is large. . . . This priest must be arrested and returned to Los Angeles to suffer the consequences of his immoral actions."

3/17/88 Bishop Rivera wrote back to Archbishop Mahony:

"You will understand that I'm not in a position to find him, much less force him to return and appear in court. . . ."

"I am at your disposal to collaborate so that justice is served and scandal is avoided."

“In the letter of presentation of January 27, 1987, I included an identification photograph, and in the confidential letter of March 23 of the same year, I provided a summary of the priest’s homosexual problems.”

3/30/88

Archbishop Mahony wrote back to Bishop Rivera:

“I would like to tell you that I have not received any letter from you dated March 23, 1987, nor any other information concerning “the homosexual problems of the priest.” . . . We have here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles a clear plan of action: we do not admit priests with any homosexual problems.”

4/7/88

LA police charged Aguilar with 19 felony counts of Lewd Act upon a Child.

1988

LA police:

The district attorney’s office, seeing no sign that the church was going to return the priest and fearing that he wouldn’t be extradited, submitted its 10 strongest cases for prosecution in Mexico. (That country’s legal system allows Mexican citizens to be prosecuted at home for crimes committed abroad.)

1988

Mexican Consulate in LA said LA police did not provide crucial evidence of Aguilar being from Mexico or a priest. LA police disputed this and said only request was for victim’s birth certificates which LA police produced.

1992

Nicholas Aguilar arrived at Torre Blanca. Joaquin Aguilar Mendez meet Fr. Aguilar here.

1992/1993

Nicholas Aguilar is transferred to another parish - San Antonio de Padua. (Antonio Nunez Nunez also transferred here)

Joaquin, his brother and another girl altar server follow Aguilar and Nunez and serve at San Antonio.

10/1994

San Antonio de Padua - noon mass. Joaquin Aguilar Mendez serving as the altar server. Fr. Aguliar was not saying the mass, the other priest was.

During mass, Joaquin had to go to the bathroom. The only bathroom they could use during mass was the one in the rectory. Joaquin walked to the bathroom through rectory. Fr. Aguilar was in his room. Fr. Aguilar made tapes of church music and sold them to parishioners. Fr. Aguilar grabbed Joaquin, lowered his pants and Joaquin’s pants and bent him over the bed. Fr. Aguilar’ penetrated Joaquin’s anus. Mass was still going on. At some point, Joaquin wiggled free and jumped under the bed. When Aguilar got down on one side, Joaquin got out on the other side and ran out of rectory.

Aguilar yelled to Joaquin that if Joaquin said anything, the same thing would happen to his siblings. Joaquin was 13 years old.

Late Oct/Early Nov.
1994

About 3 weeks after rape, Fr. Aguilar came to Joaquin's school and told Joaquin to go back to San Antonio to be an altar server. Joaquin told Aguilar he was going to tell. That same day, Fr. Aguilar went to Joaquin's parents and told them that he witnessed the Catholic brother at church rape Joaquin.

Parents contacted Joaquin and he told them it was not the Catholic brother, but rather Fr. Aguilar who raped him.

11/1/94

Joaquin and his parents went to the police. The police did a rape test on Joaquin.

1994

Aguilar still a priest of Diocese of Tehuacan and Noberto Rivera still bishop.

1995

Fr. Aguilar listed as serving in Mexico City.

1995

Noberto Rivera appointed Archbishop of Mexico City.

1995

Mexican prosecutors take the Los Angeles complaint of 10 victims to the Mexican Court. The judge dismissed the case as too old to prosecute.

In 2002, Jorge Garcia Villalobos, who was the Mexican Consulate attorney in Los Angeles told the LA police that the case did not get prosecuted because "the system was never going to prosecute a priest."

1997

Fr. Aguilar was moved back to the Diocese of Tehuacan San Nicholas Tolentino Parish.

1997

Aguilar molested a boy for months.

Aguilar told the boy that Aguilar will kill his mom or brother if the boy told anyone about the abuse.

1997

Juan Doe 100 met Father Aguilar when he was 13 years old in a small parish named Capilla de Juquilita. Aguilar sexually molested the boy. Father Aguilar threatened Juan Doe 100, he told him he will kill his mother, somebody in his family or make him disappear if he says something.

Juan Doe 1, another young boy, was sexually molested by Aguilar

Juan Doe 1, Juan Doe 100 and two other kids, after they ran away, reported to local police that Nicholas Aguilar molested them.

Juan Doe 100 met with church officials who told him to forget about everything, he will receive all kind of help from the church.

Sometime b/w 1997
and 2003

While this 1997 case is pending, Aguilar worked at parish in Mexico City for sometime while Archbishop Rivera was in charge of Archdiocese.

A Tehuacan Diocese official said that Father Aguilar had abused about 60 kids, according to the mother of one of the victims. She said the Rev. Teodoro Lima told her this in explaining why the church couldn't afford to pay for her son's counseling.

2002

Cardinal Rivera made a public statement that he would not be compassionate with priests that abuse children. This was in wake of scandal unfolding in the U.S. Joaquin then met with Bishop Jose de Jesus Martinez Zepeda, one of Cardinal Rivera's top officials. Joaquin told Zepeda about the rape in detail.

Zepeda told Joaquin to write a letter to Cardinal Rivera about the abuse but to keep the description general. Zepeda also told Joaquin to keep it secret.

5/2002

Joaquin hand delivered the letter to Zepeda to give to Cardinal Rivera. Joaquin did not get a response..

2002

Cardinal Rivera told an Italian Catholic Journal that "as far as I am aware, there has not been any documented report" to Mexican authorities of a priest molesting children.

2003

Judge Carlos Ramirez found Fr. Aguilar guilty of one of the 1997 charges (one of the 4 brought to police) and sentenced him to 1 year in prison.

7/2003

Diane Feinstein, US Rep-CA, wrote letter to President Fox about Aguilar being free. (never receives a response).

2004

Fr. Aguilar remained free on bail. On appeal, the federal judge upheld Aguilar's conviction but spared Aguilar the jail time because the crime was so old.

11/1/2005

Proceso, a Mexican magazine, does article on Aguilar. It uses Joaquin's name, but not his face.

9/06

Joaquin Aguilar Mendez filed suit in Los Angeles against Cardinal Mahony, Cardinal Rivera, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and the Diocese of Tehuacan

Joaquin's attorneys, Jeff Anderson and Mike Finnegan, held press

conferences in Los Angeles and Mexico City regarding the lawsuit.

During the press conference in Mexico City, a group of 8-10 people broke up the press conference and claimed that they were Immigration Officials with the Mexican Government. The people claiming to be Immigration Officials attempted to detain Jeff Anderson and Mike Finnegan, and also attempted to have them go with the purported officials in a black van to their office. The US Embassy sent police which escorted Jeff Anderson and Mike Finnegan to the airport.

10/06

Jeff Anderson and Michael Finnegan, a short while after they returned to the United States received official letters from the Mexican Government that they were banned by the Mexican Government from entering the country for the next five years.

7/09

The Diocese of Tehuacan reported that Pope Benedict had laicized Nicholas Aguilar Rivera. The Diocese also reported that the decision was made through the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (CDF) and Cardinal William Levada.