When a former chancellor, judicial vicar, and professor at DePaul University was accused of sexual assault, his favor with Cardinal Bernardin allowed allegations to remain hidden for more than a decade.

Fr. Robert Kealy was a rising star in the Archdiocese of Chicago. A canon and civil lawyer, he was a priest and a professor before becoming chancellor of the Archdiocese in 1985. Kealy resigned from that position in 1992, when he was accused of making sexual advances at a party. Because Kealy was prominent in his role in addressing abuse allegations against other priests, Cardinal Bernardin handled the allegations personally and made sure that there was no written record of the investigation, findings, or the results.

In 2001, a victim came forward anonymously to report that Kealy had abused him. Because the victim at first refused to be known, Kealy was allowed to remain in ministry. Soon after, another victim came forward. The victims, who were brothers, meet with Archdiocese officials.

Kealy admitted to sexually abusing at least one victim in 2003. He is permanently removed from ministry in 2005 for abuse that allegedly took place in 1977. For the next year, he continues working as a judge on the inter-diocesan Court of Appeals

Kealy is still a priest and works as a civil attorney in Mundelein, IL, where he specializes in wills and trusts.

**TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960-1964</td>
<td>Quigley North Minor Seminary</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Deacon at St. Norbert’s in Northbrook</td>
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</table>
5/10/1972     Ordained

1972- Associate Pastor, St. Germaine’s in Oak Lawn (AOC 015556)

1975-1977  Sexual abuse of JD, male 13-15 years old. (AOC 015729, 015733-015734)
1976       Juris Doctor from DePaul University College of Law
1976       Admitted to Illinois Bar
1976       Procurator/Advocate Metropolitan Tribunal (AOC 015558)

1977- Associate Pastor, St. Cletus in New Grange (AOC 015559)

1978-Associate Pastor, St. Boniface     (AOC 015562)

1978-1982  Advocate and Judge at the Metropolitan Tribunal
1979       Admitted to Bar of the United States Supreme Court
1981-1982  John Cardinal Cody confirms appointment of Kealy as Professor of Law DePaul
           University, Founder of Center for Church/State Studies     (AOC 015563)
1981       Chaplain Catholic Lawyers Guild of Chicago (AOC 015564)
1982-1985  Rome, J.C.D. Gregorian University Faculty of Canon Law
1985-1992  Joseph Cardinal Bernardin appoints Kealy Chancellor, Board of Consultors,
           Director of Executive Services (AOC 015567)

1992     Kealy resigns as Chancellor following phone call claiming Kealy made an
         advance at a party. “This allegation was of great concern to Cardinal
         Bernardin since Bob was playing a major role in dealing with priests accused
         of misconduct with minors. …Cardinal Bernardin handled this matter
         himself and, apparently, there is no written record in existence.”     (AOC
         015707)

1992 – Pastor, Immaculate Conception in Highland Park (AOC 015557)

1992       Vice Chairman Midwest Patrons of the Vatican Museums
1994-2002  Judicial Vicar of the Metropolitan Tribunal (AOC 015604)
1996       According to a 2007 report, Kealy sexually abuses minor female at Immaculate
           Conception.     (AOC 016341)
1997       Appointed Chairman of Advisory Board of Service Corporation International
1997       Accepted for 1998 Sabbatical to Europe and ICTE program in Rome but Kealy
           declines “due to a change in my personal circumstances”.     (AOC 015661)

9/25/2000   Memo from McBrady to Goedert that Bernadin allowed Kealy to leave office
            quickly and quietly according to Pat O’Malley.     (AOC 015707)
6/28/2001  Reverend Jim Kaczorowski Vicar for Priests and Kathleen Leggdas of the AD meets with victim informs them of their right to make a child abuse report to Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. (AOC 015725)

6/28/2001  Reverend Jim Kaczorowski and Katheleen Leggdas meet with Kealy at 2pm, inform him of the complaint, the name of the survivors, two brothers. Kealy admits to smoking pot and drinking alcohol in the rectory with the boys but not grabbing their crotch. (AOC 015726-15728)

6/30/2001  Professional Fitness Review Board determines accusation not reasonable cause to suspect sexual abuse of a minor. (AOC 015731)

3/25/2002  Survivor provides additional information, that he told another minor of the abuse by Kealy at that time, Father Kaczorowski called and confirmed. (AOC 015819)

3/25/2002  Kealy called to Vicar for Priests office, admits sexual misconduct to Reverend Jim Kaczorowski. (AOC 015792)

3/25/2002  Kealy resigns as Pastor to reside at Cardinal Stritch Retreat House, Koenig Hall at Mundelein. (AOC 015752-15753)

3/27/2002  Kealy put on safety plan, no contact with minors. (AOC 015762)

4/28/2002  Memo from Kealy to Cardinal George on Child Sexual Abuse cases. Kealy advises George the statute of limitations has passed on his cases. (AOC 015795-15797)

6/28/2002  Kealy placed on AD monitoring program. (AOC 015823)

11/18/2002  Kealy continues as Judicial Vicar of Court of Appeals. (AOC 015854)

1/14/2003  Kealy files appeal to Cardinal Ratzinger via the Papal Nuncio. (AOC 015869)

5/23/2003  Cardinal George appoints Leah McCluskey to investigate and monitor Kealy for an allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor. (AOC 015963)

7/31/2003  Kealy case forwarded to CDF. (AOC 016056)

7/22/2005  Degree of Cardinal George. Kealy engaged in inappropriate touching of a minor at St. Germaine parish in Oak Law on June 3, 1977. Kealy’s faculties are withdrawn. Kealy is allowed to function as an Ecclesiastical Judge on Inter-diocesan Court of Appeals. (AOC 106164)

4/22/2006  Kealy submits letter of resignation. (AOC 016325)

5/15/2006  Catholic Bishop of Chicago writes check for $38,038.00 to Kealy and purchases an annuity for Kealy. (AOC 016289-16291)