

## **Plaintiff Bridget Lyons**

Ms. Lyons was sexually abused by Redemptorist priest Fr. John “Jack” Kennington from approximately 1984 to 1987, when she was 13 to 16 years old. Ms. Lyons came to know Fr. Kennington as a priest at Most Holy Redeemer Parish in New York City, where she and her family were parishioners. Fr. Kennington ingratiated himself with Ms. Lyons’ family by visiting them at their home in Manhattan and accompanying them on family vacations. Fr. Kennington also sexually abused Ms. Lyons’ younger brother.

In 1993, Ms. Lyons, severely traumatized by the abuse, contacted an attorney about bringing a lawsuit regarding Fr. Kennington’s abuse but was told it was too late, as the statute of limitations had expired. Her younger brother was able to move forward with a lawsuit against Fr. Kennington, the Redemptorists, and the Archdiocese of New York, and his case settled. In 2002, Ms. Lyons again sought to bring a lawsuit, and again learned that she could not because the statute of limitations had expired.

New York’s Child Victims Act gives Ms. Lyons the chance at justice she has been denied for years.

Fr. Kennington was ordained a Roman Catholic priest of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (“Redemptorists”) in 1959. He was assigned to parishes in the Archdiocese of New York and the Archdiocese of Baltimore, in addition to working as a priest in Brazil for nearly two decades. From 1995 to 2005, Fr. Kennington lived at the Redemptorist residence, Mt. St. Alphonsus, in Esopus, New York, within the Archdiocese of New York. In 2009, the Redemptorists celebrated Fr. Kennington’s 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, and as of 2016 he remained a Redemptorist priest in good standing. Fr. Kennington currently lives at the Redemptorist Fathers of New York residence in Brooklyn. His access to and proximity to children is unknown.

The Redemptorists have two provinces in the United States, the Baltimore and Denver Provinces. The larger of those, the Baltimore Province, is headquartered in Brooklyn. The Redemptorists are members of Defendant Conference of Major Superiors of Men (“CMSM”).

<https://nypost.com/2002/03/22/mother-demands-church-boot-strip-poker-pastor/>

[http://www.bishopaccountability.org/news555/2002\\_New\\_York\\_Post\\_Kindly\\_family.htm](http://www.bishopaccountability.org/news555/2002_New_York_Post_Kindly_family.htm)

[http://www.bishopaccountability.org/news555/2002\\_03\\_23\\_Newsday\\_Court\\_Orders.htm](http://www.bishopaccountability.org/news555/2002_03_23_Newsday_Court_Orders.htm)

### **Plaintiff Darryl Bassile**

Mr. Bassile was sexually abused by Conventual Franciscan priest Fr. Bruce Ritter in approximately 1973, when he was approximately 14 years old. At the time of the abuse, Mr. Bassile was a resident of Covenant House, a facility for homeless youth in New York City founded by Fr. Ritter. Fr. Ritter sheltered Mr. Bassile, consoled him, and advised him during his time at Covenant House. Fr. Ritter exploited Mr. Bassile's vulnerability in sexually abusing him.

In 1990, Mr. Bassile brought a lawsuit against Fr. Ritter, the Conventual Franciscans, and Covenant House for the abuse he suffered by Fr. Ritter. The lawsuit was dismissed on statute of limitations grounds, meaning too much time had elapsed for him to bring legal action.

New York's Child Victims Act gives Mr. Bassile an opportunity he did not have before.

Fr. Ritter was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Order of Friars of Minor Conventual ("Conventual Franciscans") in approximately 1956. Fr. Ritter worked at seminaries in New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania in the early years of his career. With the permission of the Conventual Franciscans, Fr. Ritter founded Covenant House in 1968. Fr. Ritter operated Covenant House, with the financial help of the Conventual Franciscans, from 1972 to 1990. Fr. Ritter has been accused of sexually abusing several at-risk minors residing at Covenant House during this time. He died in 1999.

The Conventual Franciscans has four provinces encompassing the United States and Canada. The Conventual Franciscans are members of Defendant Conference of Major Superiors of Men ("CMSM").

## **Plaintiff John Doe 1**

John Doe 1 was sexually abused by Benedictine priest Abbott Timothy Kelly in approximately 1965, when Doe 1 was approximately 9 or 10 years old. John Doe 1 came to know Abbott Kelly as the associate pastor at St. Anselm's Church in the Bronx, and Abbott Kelly sexually abused John Doe 1 after hearing John Doe 1's confession at St. Anselm's. Abbott Kelly exploited John Doe 1's vulnerability after John Doe 1 sought out Abbott Kelly to confess a deeply personal matter.

Under the New York Child Victims Act, John Doe 1 will have an opportunity for justice and accountability.

Abbott Kelly became a monk of the Order of St. Benedict ("Benedictines") in approximately 1955. He was ordained a Benedictine priest in 1961. Abbott Kelly quickly rose to prominence, eventually becoming the abbot, or head, of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota. He has been accused of abusing at least three other children in addition to Doe 1, two who allege abuse during the 1960s at St. Anselm's in the Bronx and another who alleges abuse during the 1960s in Mexico and Minnesota. Abbott Kelly died in 2010.

St. John's Abbey has publicly released a list of offenders credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors, but it has not added Abbott Kelly to the list.

The Benedictines have over 100 Benedictine "houses" in the United States today. Unlike other orders, every Benedictine house is independent and autonomous. However, most Benedictine monasteries are grouped into larger "congregations" with an Abbot Primate or President who advises that group. Because of their structure, the Benedictines are difficult to track and can send monks across the country and globe virtually undetected. The Benedictines are members of Defendant Conference of Major Superiors of Men ("CMSM").

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2011/06/07/clergy-abuse>

### **Plaintiff Mark Lyman**

Mr. Lyman was sexually abused by Franciscan priest Fr. Francis Genevieve from approximately 1978 to 1982, when he was 13 to 16 years old. Mr. Lyman came to know Fr. Genevieve after Mr. Lyman's mother brought him to St. Anthony of Padua in Troy, NY where Fr. Genevieve was assigned for pastoral care and counseling. Fr. Genevieve showered Mr. Lyman with attention and took him on trips to Franciscan facilities in New York City and Massachusetts, where he abused Mr. Lyman.

In 2004, Mr. Lyman filed a lawsuit in Massachusetts for Fr. Genevieve's sexual abuse against the Diocese of Albany, the Bishop of Albany, the Franciscans, and Fr. Genevieve. The claims were later dismissed, in part on the statute of limitations.

In 2008, Mr. Lyman and another survivor of abuse by Fr. Genevieve pursued criminal charges against Fr. Genevieve in Massachusetts. Fr. Genevieve pleaded guilty to raping Mr. Lyman and the other survivor, and was given a suspended sentence of 8 to 10 years in prison.

In 2009, Mr. Lyman and the same survivor who pursued criminal charges against Fr. Genevieve filed a lawsuit in New York against Fr. Genevieve, Br. Joseph Lagressa, Superior Robert Camagna, and the Franciscans. The case settled out of court.

Fr. Genevieve joined the Franciscan Province of the Immaculate Conception ("Franciscans") in approximately 1974. He served as a professed religious brother and member from approximately 1974 to 1983, and was ordained a Franciscan priest in 1983. Prior to Fr. Genevieve meeting Mr. Lyman, the Franciscans sent Fr. Genevieve for treatment at House of Affirmation in Worcester, Massachusetts. House of Affirmation is an institution known to treat sexually abusive priests and clerics. Fr. Genevieve is now deceased.

The Franciscans are headquartered in New York and minister throughout New York, New England, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida. The Franciscans are members of Defendant Conference of Major Superiors of Men ("CMSM").

[http://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2008/07\\_08/2008\\_07\\_23\\_Hanna\\_NYPriest.htm](http://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2008/07_08/2008_07_23_Hanna_NYPriest.htm)

### **Jeanne Marron**

Ms. Marron was sexually abused by Irish Christian Brother James Vincent Hanney from approximately 1977 to 1980, when Ms. Marron was 15 to 17 years old. Ms. Marron came into contact with Br. Hanney as a teacher and counselor at Notre Dame Bishop Gibbons High School (“Bishop Gibbons”) in Schenectady, New York, within the Diocese of Albany, where she was a student. Br. Hanney manipulated Ms. Marron during their counseling sessions and abused her at the school and on camping trips to Maine.

Br. Hanney was a member of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers (“Irish Christian Brothers”) in the 1970s. In approximately 1971, students at Bishop Gibbons found a photograph of Br. Hanney and two young men sitting on a picnic table completely naked. The students brought the photographs to Irish Christian Brother Br. Draney, then-principal of the school. Br. Draney reportedly took no action against Br. Hanney, instead allowing him unrestricted contact to Ms. Marron and other students.

Br. Hanney is believed to have fled the United States and obtained work in the Philippines. Ms. Marron and other survivors petitioned church officials to publicize his identity and remove him from his position in the Philippines. His current whereabouts are unknown.

The Irish Christian Brothers own and operate schools throughout the world. Currently, their North American headquarters are in New York. In 2011, the Irish Christian Brothers filed for bankruptcy in response to the increasing number of child sexual abuse claims lodged against them. Multiple individuals, including Ms. Marron, identified Br. Hanney as an abuser. The Irish Christian Brothers included him on their list of accused clerics, which was ordered to be published by the bankruptcy court. The Irish Christian Brothers are members of Defendant Conference of Major Superiors of Men (“CMSM”).