

Diocese of Jackson

Statement on George Broussard
June 10, 2002

In legal proceedings underway in Massachusetts, Kenneth Morrison made allegations that Cardinal Bernard Law had knowledge of sexual abuse taking place in the Diocese of Jackson between 1969 and 1974. From the years 1968 to 1971 Cardinal Law held the position of Executive Director of the Secretariat of the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in Washington, D.C. He served as Vicar General of the Natchez-Jackson Diocese from April 1971 to December 1973. Mr. Morrison claims that the abuse began when he was a child and continued for about five years. He identifies the alleged perpetrator as George Broussard, a former priest who was assigned to St. Peter Cathedral, Jackson.

The Diocese of Jackson's Policy Against Sexual Misconduct With a Minor By Clergy Or Religious covers investigations of abuse of minors even if the report is made years after the alleged conduct occurs. Currently, the diocese through its Review Administrator is conducting an investigation concerning Mr. Broussard's alleged misconduct. As part of that investigation, we have been informed by Mr. Broussard, that during the time period in question, he received psychiatric help, at the direction of Bishop Brunini. He later was transferred to Waveland, Mississippi, and continued his psychiatric care. He served the Waveland parish for one year and left the active ministry in August 1975. He has not served as a priest since that time. He currently resides in Houma, Louisiana.

Since January 1, 1994, the Diocese of Jackson has had a policy in place that requires investigating current and past allegations of sexual misconduct by priests and religious. Sexual misconduct by church personnel violates human dignity and the mission of the Church. The Diocese of Jackson is committed to ensuring that children being served by the Church are not at risk of sexual abuse by Church personnel. The spiritual well-being of all the victims, their families, and others in the community is of particular concern to the Church. In accordance with our policy, all victims of abuse are offered counseling and pastoral care.