STATEMENT REGARDING PAUL WEST AND DON LUCAS

JACKSON – In 1998, shortly after Rapheal Love reported the abuse by Paul West to diocesan employees at St. Francis School in Greenwood, a school staffed by the Franciscan Order, the Diocese reported the allegation to the Greenwood Police Department and the Department of Human Services. In addition to reporting it to legal authorities, the Diocesan Fitness Review Committee investigated to determine if other children were harmed.

The Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools authorized the St. Francis School administration to have a trained psychologist conduct six age-appropriate boundary and relationship educational sessions with the children. Counselors met with the children in order to determine if others had been abused. The school administration sent out questionnaires to former students’ parents to determine why they had left the school. The administration also interviewed other potential victims and sought to provide counseling for not only Love but any that may have been abused.

Later, when additional reports were received in 2018 concerning West and Don Lucas, the Diocese reported to complaints to the Leflore County District Attorney. West was removed from ministry by the Franciscan Order and the Diocese after the 1998 complaint. He never returned to Greenwood or Mississippi. Lucas is deceased. Attached are the police report and the letter to the Leflore County District Attorney.

Valerie McClellan, Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Jackson, was present in Greenwood at a counselling session for Joshua Love. She attended a meeting between Fr. James Gannon, provincial for the Franciscans and Joshua Love, as an emotional support person for Mr. Love. At this meeting, Ms. McClellan reiterated Fr. Gannon’s urging for Mr. Love to have a lawyer review the agreement for him. At no point during the meeting did she review or read the
proposed settlement agreement or encourage Mr. Love to sign the agreement. Her sole purpose at the meeting was to act as emotional support for Mr. Love as his therapist.

In accord with the Charter for the Protection of Children, it is diocesan protocol that when an allegation involves a Religious Order priest or religious brother or sister, the complaint is turned over to the religious order. The Diocese works with the religious order to locally provide counselling and pastoral care to the victim.

It is diocesan policy to fully cooperate in all criminal investigation after a police report is filed. However, the Diocese does not continue its investigation into the specific incident charged because it does not want to interfere in an ongoing criminal investigation by civil authorities.

The Diocese of Jackson is committed to protecting children. Sexual misconduct by Church personnel violates human dignity and the mission of the Church. The Diocese has dedicated substantial time and resources to ensure that children being served by the Church are not at risk of sexual abuse by Church personnel. The spiritual well-being of all victims, their families, and others in the community is of particular concern to the Church.

Over the past thirty years, the Diocese of Jackson has developed and implemented a safe environment program. The Diocese has publicized standards of conduct for its priests and deacons as well as diocesan employees, volunteers, and any other Church personnel in positions of trust who have regular contact with children and young people. Beginning in 1986, the Diocese implemented a written policy and procedure regarding reporting and handling of sexual misconduct claims. The policy was updated in 1994 with the addition of a Diocesan Fitness Review Committee and again in 2002 so that it would reflect the mandates of the Bishops’ Charter.

Anyone who has been a victim of abuse or exploitation by clergy, religious or lay church personnel and has not yet reported it is encouraged to do so. The Victim Assistance Coordinator, Valerie McClellan, and Safe Environment Coordinator, Vickie Carollo, are available to assist in making a report. The contact number for the Victim Assistance Coordinator is 601.326-3728. The contact number for the Safe Environment Coordinator is 601.960-8471.

*The attached letter dated March 14, 2019 from attorney Steven Carmody to the Leflore County District Attorney contains an error stating Brother West is recently deceased. He is still living. Brother Don Lucas is deceased. We regret the error.

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TO: Judge Vallor

ATTENTION:

FAX NUMBER: 630-8033

FROM: Chief of Police

DATE: 10-10-98

RE: Michael Blake

MESSAGE:


TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED (INCLUDING THIS PAGE) 3

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH TRANSMISSION, AND YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES TRANSMITTED OR IF YOU NEED OTHER ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL Defeat Mel Andrews AT (601)453-3311. THANK YOU.

406 Main Street, Greenwood, Mississippi 38930
**OFFENSE/INCIDENT REPORT**

**EVENT**
- Location of Incident: Greenwood
- Victim's Home Address (if different from above): Greenwood
- Employer and Occupation: St. Francis Elementary School
- Complainant's Last Name: Frank
- Complainant's Street Address: Vicksburg

**VEHICLE**
- Make: Vicksburg
- Model: N/A
- Color: Top-

**DISPOSITION**
- Status: Active
- Clear Date: Y/N
- Primary Reporting Officer: Lester Martin
- Secondary Reporting Officer: Martin, Lester
- Investigating Officer (Last Name First): 0011 980922

**BIKE**
- Brakes: Hand
- Gear: Sprocket
- Color: Pedal
- Frame Number: Accessories & Other Description

**PROPERTY**
- Stolen: Yes
- Recovered: Yes
- Damaged: No
- Lost: No
- Confiscated: No
On the above date and time Mr. Vallor called from Jackson, Ms who is the Fitness Review Officer of the Catholic Church, and also a Circuit Judge. Mr. Vallor advise this writer that Brother Don of St Francis Elementary School had called Sister Debra Hughes, who is Superintendent over Diocese over this District.

Sister Hughes call Mr. Vallor and stated that Raphael Love who is 4th grade at St Francis went to Brother Don and told him that Brother Paul had him working at the church and when he went into the bathroom Brother Paul came in and shoved him some nude pictures of men and women, and then started to play with himself and also played with Raphael Love’s Private Parts. This incident happen in the first Sunday or the Second Sunday in August 1998 according to the boys.

Grandmother Mrs Lou - [redacted] Alice Love - [redacted]
Sister Debra Hughes - Phone: [redacted]
Brother Don - St. Francis - [redacted]
March 14, 2019

W. Dewayne Richardson
Leflore County District Attorney
Post Office Box 253
Greenwood, MS 38935

Re: Allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor

Dear Mr. Richardson:

I represent the Catholic Diocese of Jackson ("Diocese"). The Diocese is in the process of reviewing all of its files to provide a list of priests who were credibly accused of sexual misconduct with a minor. During our review, we learned of accusations that have not been reported to your office. Under church rules, it is the responsibility of the religious order to investigate and report allegations of abuse of its religious who, while in Mississippi, were accused of sexual misconduct with a minor. The Diocese has been asked by a Religious Order to make a report of claims against one of its Brothers that was working at St. Francis School in Greenwood.

In 1998, a claim was reported to the Greenwood Police Department of possible sexual abuse of one of its students (Raphael Love) by Brother Paul West. Recently, the Religious Order has been processing additional claims that Raphael’s siblings, Joshua Love and LaJarvis Love, were also abused from June of 1993 to June of 1998. The Order is providing psychological care and counseling for these victims. We do not have the details of these new claims, but we can ask that the Religious Order provide details if you would like. Brother West is out of ministry and recently deceased.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

BRUNINI, GRANTHAM, GROWER & HEWES, PLLC

[Signature]

Stephen J. Carmody

SJC/sm

cc: Ricky Banks, Sheriff
Post Office Box 905
Greenwood, MS 38935

Catholic Diocese of Jackson
April 2, 2019

W. Dewayne Richardson
Leflore County District Attorney
Post Office Box 253
Greenwood, MS 38935

Re: Don Lucas and Paul West

Dear Mr. Richardson:

Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2019. I have reviewed it and forwarded it to the Diocese of Jackson ("Diocese"). Under church procedure, because these were religious brothers visiting and serving in the Diocese, upon receipt of complaint, we refer the investigation of the sexual misconduct claims to the Orders of Friars Minor (the "Franciscans"). In this instance, Fr. Jim Gannon handled the complaint. His phone number is 414-791-7433. His address is Office of the Provincial, 9230 West Highland Park Avenue, Franklin, WI 53132-8143. We have two email addresses for him: JGannon@ofm-abvm.org and jgunnonofm@thefranciscans.net.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

BRUNINI, GRANTHAM, GROWER & HEWES, PLLC

[Signature]
Stephen J. Carmody

cc: Ricky Banks, Sheriff
Post Office Box 905
Greenwood, MS 38935

Catholic Diocese of Jackson