

# The Long Term Record of the Archdiocese of Chicago in Responding to Priest Sexual Abuse

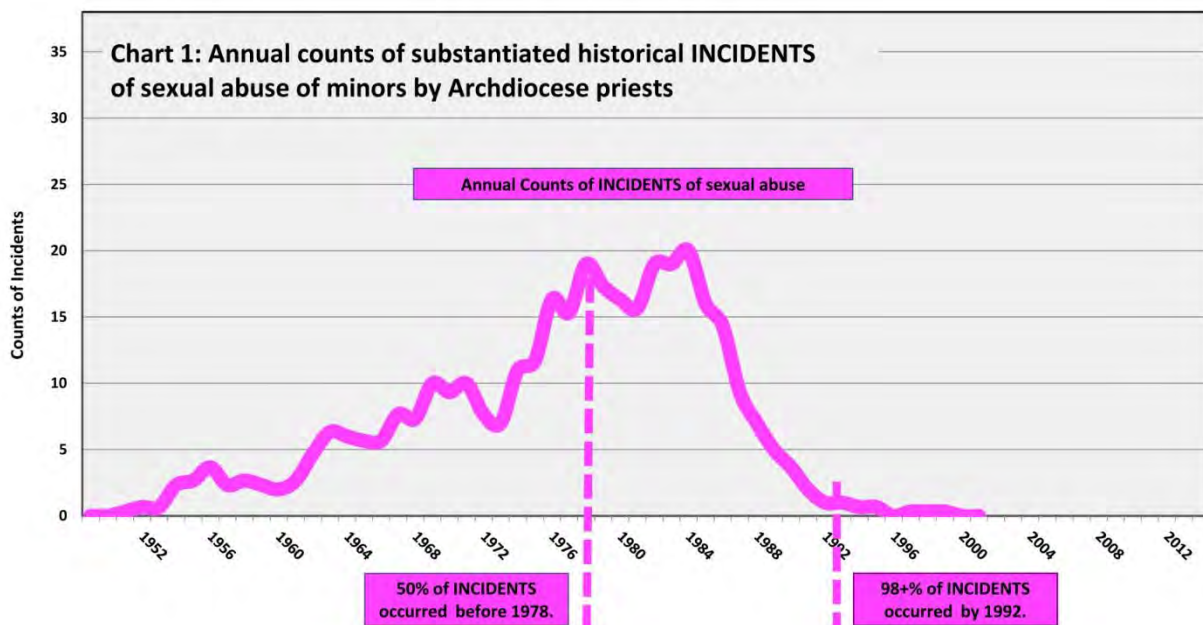
The following charts are based on the historical records of the Archdiocese relating to allegations of sexual abuse of minors that have been made since the 1950's against former priests of the Archdiocese. These records have been made available to the public during 2014, in two batches:

- In January 2014, relating to a group of 30 former priests.
- In November 2014, relating to a different group of 36 former priests. This “November Group” is analyzed separately for some purposes.

In all, the published documents relate to 66 former priests (sometimes called the “Published Group”). Each of these priests has been the subject of at least one “substantiated” allegation of sexual abuse of a minor. Almost all of them have been publicly identified on the Archdiocese web site since 2006.

These charts are based on information distilled from the many thousands of pages of published Archdiocese records concerning the Published Group. The charts do not include allegations against former priest Daniel J. McCormack. Events underlying McCormack matters occurred largely between 2000 and 2006. Allegations are still emerging; criminal prosecution and civil litigation is ongoing. McCormack matters are not considered here among the “historical” claims.

## CHART 1: INCIDENTS OF ABUSE



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This chart shows the number of substantiated “incidents” of historical sexual abuse of minors by priests in the Published Group that are known to have **OCCURRED** during each year.

The term “**incident**” requires explanation: An “incident” is the earliest date when abuse is alleged to or was likely to have occurred. Some abusive relationships involve a single occasion; some involve many and widely varied occasions over several years. No meaningful attempt to measure occasions is possible, and so the charts treat each abusive relationship as a single “incident.” Across many incidents and many years, differences among “incidents” even out, and Chart 1 is a fair representation of the relative reported volumes of sexual abuse over time.

This chart reflects a total of **352** incidents of abuse since 1952. These incidents comprise the overwhelming majority of all known historical incidents of abuse over the past half-century that have been substantiated by the Archdiocese. The highest numbers of incidents occurred in 1975-85, when the annual count was in the range of 16-18. The median year for recorded historical incidents of abuse is 1978. Since 1992, only a few new incidents of historical abuse by the Published Group (or any Archdiocese priests) have occurred.

Some of the Published Group of priests were certainly involved in additional incidents of abuse not included in these charts, that is, incidents that are entirely unreported or have not been “substantiated.” The Archdiocese continues to urge anyone with knowledge of likely events of abuse, and especially the victims, to come forward.

## CHART 2: REPORTS OF ABUSE

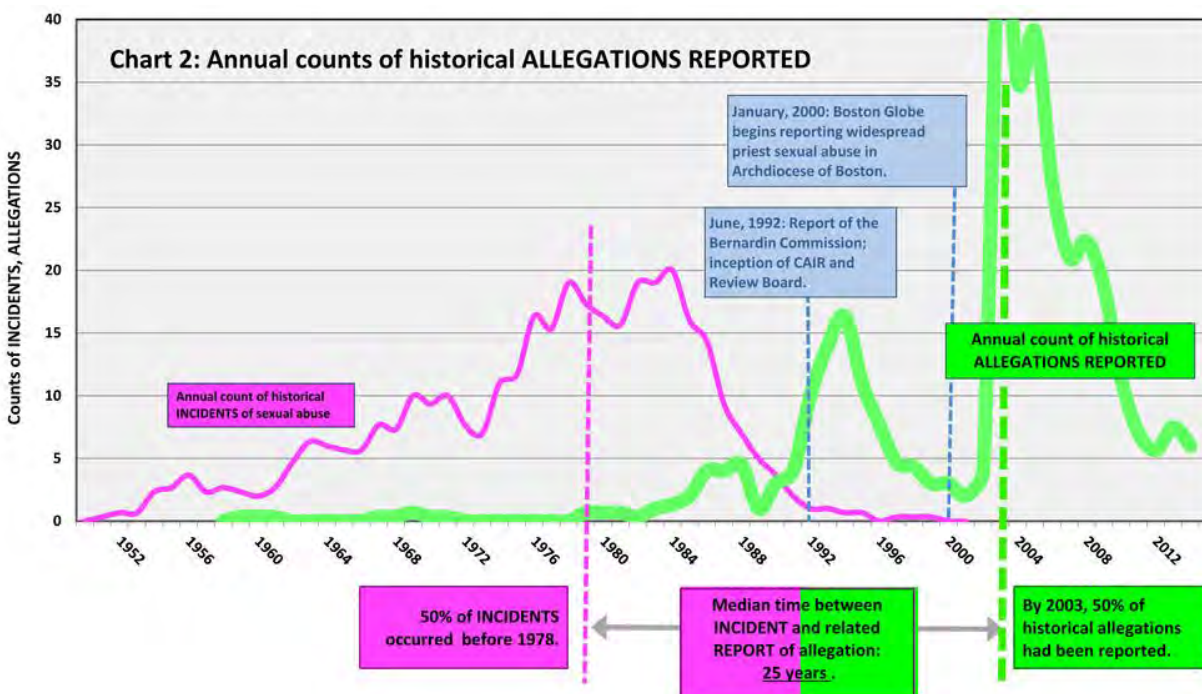


Chart 1 reflected 352 **INCIDENTS** of abuse; Chart 2 reflects the corresponding **REPORTS** of those 352 incidents that the Archdiocese has received over the years.

Reporting of sexual abuse lagged many years behind the events of abuse. As the chart shows, the median report was received in **2003**, in contrast with the **1978** median date of incident. In other words, the “average” incident of abuse was not reported to the Archdiocese, in a manner that was recorded in any Archdiocesan record, for **25 years** after the incident occurred.

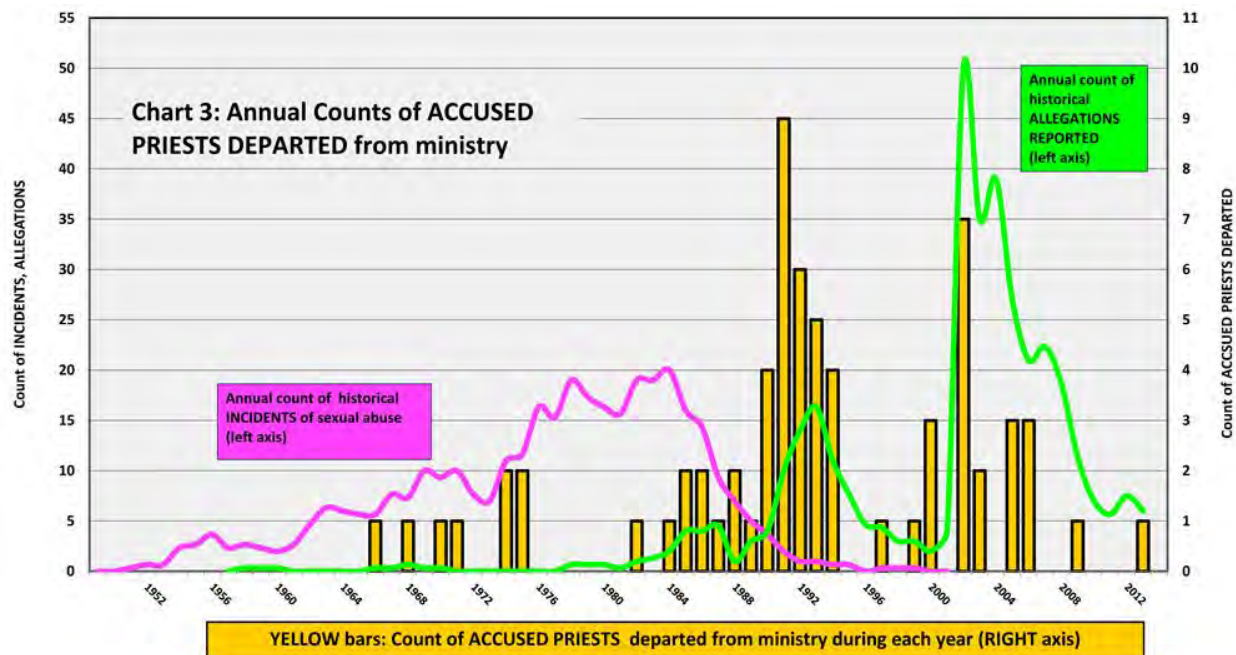
The record contains few reports of abuse before 1980. In the early 1990’s there was a boomlet; beginning in 2001 reports multiplied – they literally ran off the chart. The reasons for this uneven pattern are plain:

- In 1991, Cardinal Bernardin chartered the “Commission on Clerical Sexual Misconduct with Minors” (referred to generally as the “Cardinal’s Commission”) to investigate the emerging issue and make recommendations. The trail-blazing report of the Commission (June 15, 1992) resulted in the creation of the offices that have managed the Archdiocese’s response since then – the Review Board and its investigative arm, now called the Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review (“CAIR”). The Commission’s investigative process stirred up many allegations in itself, and the flow of new allegations continued as the Review Board began functioning.
- On January 6, 2000, the Boston Globe broke the first in its series of stories concerning priest sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Boston. This triggered a national outpouring of interest and concern, and led to the “Dallas protocols” adopted in 2002 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). In Chicago, where a system for handling

sexual abuse allegations had already been established and functioning for nearly a decade, there was dramatic growth in allegations presented to the Review Board and the CAIR office.

Chart 2 makes clear that there was very little historical overlap between earlier INCIDENTS of abuse and later REPORTS of abuse. In other words, once reporting of sexual abuse began, actual abuse declined steadily. Isolated cases may still occur, but the previous pattern of multiple incidents disappeared by 1992.

### CHART 3: ACCUSED PRIESTS



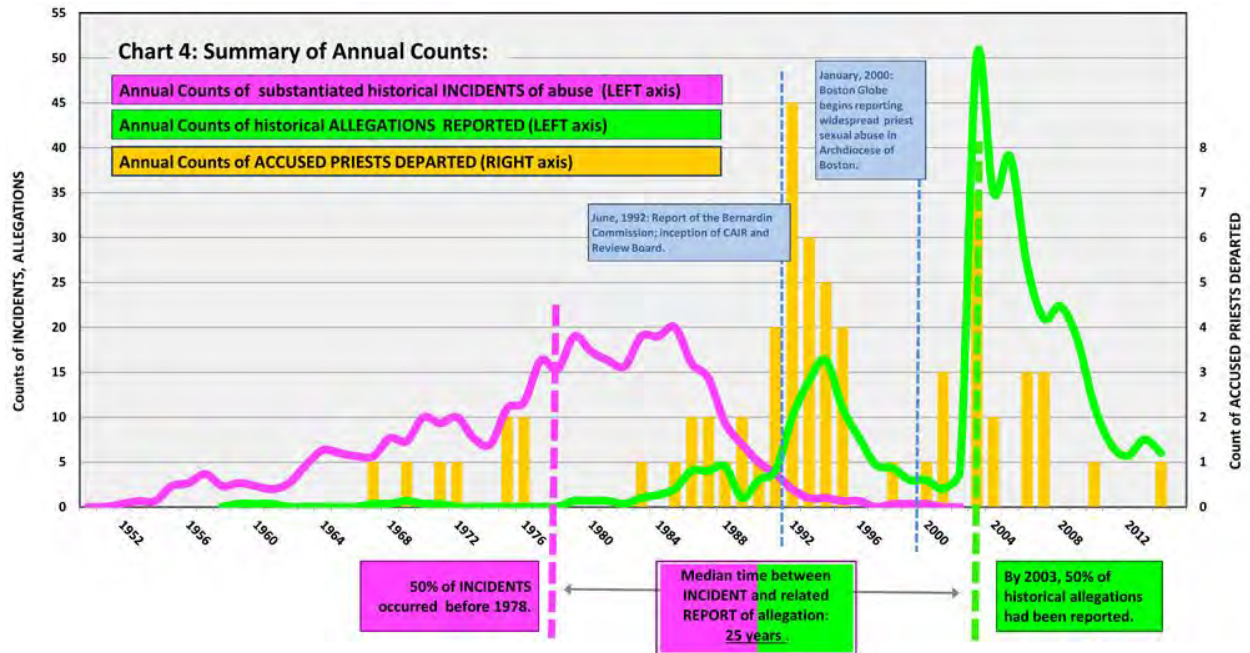
Credibly accused priests left ministry in numbers and at times depicted by the yellow bars in Chart 3. A few died before any allegation was reported, but the rest departed in response to one or more credible allegations of sexual abuse.

Major exoduses of priests correspond exactly with the periods when new allegations of abuse appeared – that is, in 1990-93 and again in 2002. Almost 2/3 of the Published Group were out of ministry by the mid-1990's, after the Archdiocese Review Board adjudicated the first rounds of allegations it received. In 2002, Cardinal George completed the removal of all then-identified priests with substantiated allegations. By then, the "Dallas protocols" of the USCCB required the permanent removal from any ministry of priests with substantiated allegations.

If Chart 3 were "weighted" for the number of substantiated allegations against each of the departed priests, the period from 1990-94 would be even more prominent. The priests who departed from 1990-94 accounted for over 2/3 of all substantiated allegations.

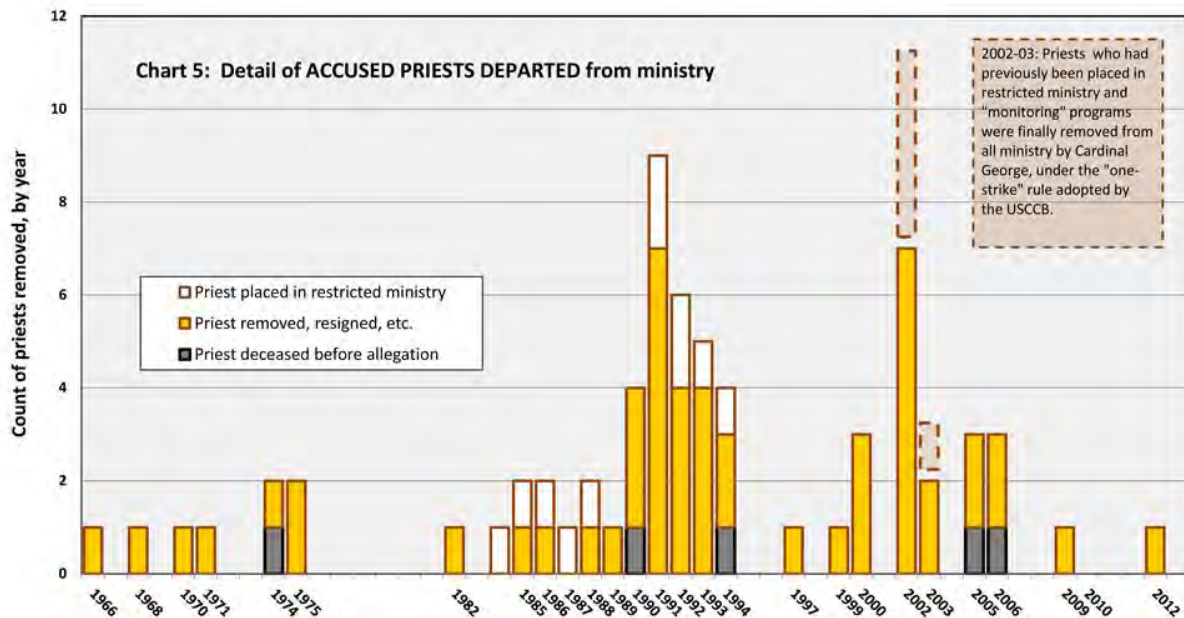


### CHART 4: COMPOSITE



This chart brings together all the previously-presented time series in a single presentation. In Chart 5, analysis of accused priest “departures” is continued in more detail.

### CHART 5: ANALYSIS OF PRIEST “DEPARTURES”



Credibly accused priests departed from ministry in a variety of ways, some depicted in Chart 5. Of the priests in the Published Group, five were deceased before any allegation of sexual abuse

was recorded. During the 1980's and early 1990's, many priests were "withdrawn" from parish ministry and assigned to a "restricted ministry" out of contact with children. Some were additionally subject to a "monitoring" program. Published documents include many "Individual Specific Protocols" governing individual movements and behaviors. Chart 5 distinguishes those in "restricted ministry" from those who simply resigned (or "retired") as priests of the Archdiocese, or who were immediately removed from all Archdiocesan ministry and consigned to a "life of prayer and penance."

In 2002, the USCCB's "Dallas protocols" changed the rules. Even one substantiated allegation of abuse, no matter what the age or circumstances, required removal of the priest from all ministry. Those priests still in "restricted ministry" were formally removed from all ministry by Cardinal George at that time. The practical effect of this was tempered because some priests in "restricted ministry" had voluntarily departed earlier.

The term "departure" as used here includes all of the modes through which priests cease their ministerial functions after a substantiated allegation – death, voluntary resignation or retirement, formal or informal removal from parish or other ministries, assignment to a "restricted ministry." After the first substantiation of an allegation against him, no Archdiocese priest has been known to commit another substantiated act of sexual abuse, at least since 1992. In other words, no substantiated offender in any stage of "departure" has abused again while he remained an Archdiocese priest.

## CHART 6: GAP STUDY DATASET

Two time intervals – "gaps" – can be used to understand the Archdiocese's response to priest sexual abuse:

- "Notice Gap": The period between the date of events indicating possible child sexual abuse and the date of effective "Notice" to the Archdiocese of those events. This gap may be decades in length.
- "Prevention Gap": The period between the "Notice" date and the time of the eventual Archdiocesan response – for example, if sexual abuse of a minor is established, the Archdiocese would remove the priest from ministry. The Prevention Gap may be brief when the accused priest departs quickly, or this gap may involve a period of investigation and assessment of an uncertain situation.

The records of the November Group of priests have been reviewed to assemble the "gap" data depicted in Chart 6; that is, the dates when the Archdiocese received "Notice" of potential abuse, and the dates that allegations were substantiated and priests were "**departed.**" Chart 6 lists the priests in the chronological order in which the Archdiocese received Notice concerning each priest, from pre-1960 to 2012. The chart shows any time gap from the time of Notice to the time of the priest's departure.

The published files show in detail that each priest's story is complex, unique, and typically filled with ambiguities and uncertainties as varied as human sexual behavior and traditional unwillingness to talk about it. How much "Notice" is enough, in cases with less than a substantiated allegation? In 1970, did bare-bottomed spanking of a 10-year-old comprise Notice of child sexual abuse? When a priest retires to the Bishop Lyne Home (for elderly



priests), has he effectively departed from ministry? A best effort has been made to cull the documents and to develop a consistent dataset reflecting a broad understanding of “Notice” facts. Others are welcome to replicate this process and to challenge the data in Chart 6.

*Legal disclaimer: The data in Chart 6 does not reflect a complete investigation of the underlying facts. It is merely a reading of the Archdiocese’s historical paper record, insofar as it may cover these events. The data in the Chart 6 should not be construed as a conclusion about or an admission concerning any of the individual matters addressed.*

Chart 6 does not permit easy comparisons among priests. It does not suggest general conclusions. To pursue the analysis, the Notice dates are “normalized” as shown in Chart 7.

## CHART 7: GAP STUDY NORMALIZED

Chart 7 sets the Notice dates for each priest at zero and asks: **how many days elapsed** in each case before the priest was effectively “departed,” that is, he no longer presented a risk of further abuse? The results are remarkably clear:

- Of the **36** priests in the study, **4** had departed many years before any notice or allegation of sexual abuse came to attention.
- **21** priests departed within less than one year (actually, 283 days) after the first recorded Notice of abuse, many of them within a few days. While each case could be further examined, this speed of Archdiocesan response seems presumptively reasonable.
- Thus, **25** out of **36** priests studied -- nearly **70%** -- were **departed within one year** of the first Notice of possible abuse.
- The remaining **11** accused priests did not depart quickly. Most of them remained in ministry for many years after Notice of possible abuse. Chart 8 offers at least a partial explanation of how this happened.

## CHART 8: GAP STUDY NORMALIZED AND REORDERED

Chart 8 presents the same “normalized” data as Chart 7, but Chart 8 orders the list of priests by the date of Notice date. Early Notice dates, going back to the 1960’s, are shown first, followed in chronological order by the others. This ordering of the records shows that the longer-tenured accused priests at the bottom of Chart 7 are mainly the oldest cases. These extend back in time well before the 1992 reforms that created the modern system.

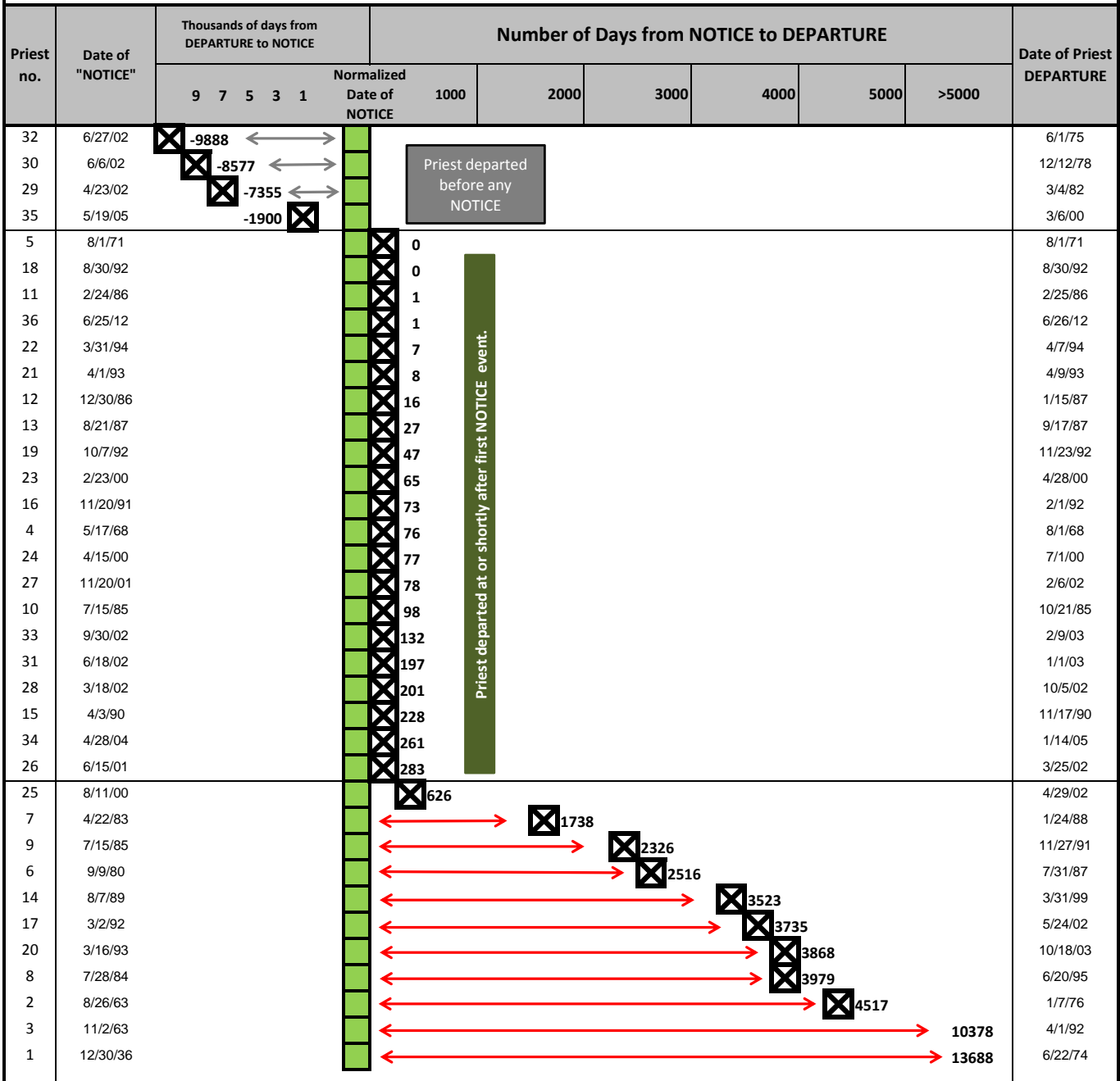
Three of the priests have Notice dates in the 1960’s or earlier. Five have Notice dates in the 1980’s; one occurs in early 1992. Only ONE of the 36 priests has both an extended post-Notice career and a Notice date after 1992 – and even that date occurred in distant 1993.

This one exception – Rev. John Hefferan, Priest No. 20 on the list – illustrates the difficulty of critiquing individual cases. Hefferan was among the first priests called before the Review Board, in 1993. The allegation was substantiated and Hefferan was put under restrictions and monitoring, similarly to other priests at that time, but these restriction were eventually lifted at the recommendation of the Review Board. Hefferan was unrestricted for a period, and retired



### CHART 7: "GAP" STUDY: Comparison of period from first possible NOTICE to Priest DEPARTURE, ordered by Duration.

Applied to the 36 priest records published in November 2014. NOTICE dates have been "normalized" to facilitate comparison among priests. Ordered by the "Gap" - the count of days from NOTICE to DEPARTURE.





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in 2000, before he was formally removed in 2003. Under the criteria used in this analysis, an unrestricted priest with a substantiated allegation is considered to be in active ministry – even a 70-year old living in the Bishop Lyne Home for the elderly. The “Prevention Gap” has not been closed and the record shows a priest with a substantiated allegation in ministry – a long red line on Chart 8.

Further study of other cases where the “Prevention Gap” remained open for long periods might yield similar results. The Archdiocese has not operated without error over the last half century. But the record as a whole shows a broad and sustained response to sexual abuse of minors by Archdiocese priests.

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