

## DIOCESAN REVIEW BOARD

**Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Beaumont**, publicly announced on March 14, 2003 the appointment of a **Diocesan Review Board**. The appointment of this Review Board is in compliance with 1) the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* which was initially approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on November 19, 2002 and revised in June, 2018, and 2) the USCCB's *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors* which were approved by the Vatican Congregation for Bishops on December 8, 2002 and revised in May, 2006.

The majority of the members are lay persons who are not in the employment of the Diocese. Members are appointed for a term of five years. The Board reviews and assesses the credibility of allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clerics and other church personnel and makes recommendations to the Bishop. The Board also makes recommendations concerning return to ministry, employment, or volunteer service, once a determination is made about the allegation.

### MEMBERS

(Rev. Dec., 2018)

**Judge Patrick Clark, J.D., Senior Retired Judge**, is a life-long resident of Orange, TX, a graduate of St. Mary School in Orange and of Lamar University in Beaumont. He received his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Texas Law School in 1970. Upon graduation, he was drafted into the U.S. Army until 1974, during which he received a Direct Commission and became a Captain. After his discharge, he became 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant District and County Attorney in Orange until 1978. Then he was appointed and elected Judge of the County Court-at-Law. In 1980 he was appointed and elected District Judge of the 128<sup>th</sup> District Court. Upon retirement as the longest serving District Judge in Texas, he was appointed County Court-at-Law Judge again until his final retirement in 2012. He is active in his parish, St. Mary's in Orange, and has served in various capacities, including the Parish Council and St. Mary School Board and the School Foundation. He is married to Rosalie Todaro, and they have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. They are a Knight and Lady of the Holy Sepulchre.

**Jim Clay, Assistant Chief, Beaumont Police Dept.** Jim has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Lamar University and is currently working on his Masters. He began his career with the Police Department in 1984 and was promoted to Sergeant in 1988, where he was a Patrol Supervisor until 1990. In 1990 he transferred to the Criminal Investigations Division and later formed the Southeast Texas Auto Theft Task Force in 1993. In 1996 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and served as both a patrol shift supervisor and unit supervisor to several different sections of the Criminal Investigations Division. In 1999 he graduated from the Sam Houston State University Leadership and Command College, and in 2006 he graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. In 2011 he was promoted to the rank of Captain and worked in both the Administrative and Investigative Divisions. In July of 2015 he was appointed as Assistant Chief. He is a member of St. Anne Catholic Church where he serves as a Eucharistic Minister. He is active in both the Men's ACTS program and the Teen ACTS program. He has been married to his wife, Chris, for over 25 years, and has a son, Dylan, who is a graduate of Texas A&M University.

**Dr. Robert Meier, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist.** He received a Ph.D. in Psychology from Purdue University in 1977 and worked as a faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine at UTMB Galveston for seven years. In this community he worked briefly as a counselor at Spindletop MHMR, Veterans Administration Outpatient Unit, and Beaumont Psychological Services. He then served on the faculty of Family Medicine Residency programs at CHRISTUS St. Mary Hospital in Port Arthur and at CHRISTUS St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont for twelve years. For the past eight years he has been in the private practice of psychology doing therapy and psychological evaluations for Child Protective Services. He is a member of St. Anne Parish and was on school boards at both St. Anne and Kelly High School. He has been married for over 31 years, has one son, and has enjoyed serving on numerous ACTS retreat teams.

**Father Tom Phelan, M.Th., MSW.** *Pastor - St. Jude Thaddeus Church, Beaumont.* Obtaining a Master of Theology in 1975 from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, he was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Beaumont on April 24, 1976. After serving for several years in parish ministry, he became the founding Director of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Beaumont from 1983-1990. During this time, he completed a Master of Social Work in 1985 from Our Lady of the Lake in San Antonio, TX. From 1990 to 1992, he was a researcher with the Industrial Areas Foundation in San Antonio. Since that time, he has been Pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Church in Dayton, TX, and Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Orange, TX. From July, 2015, he was appointed pastor of St. Jude's Parish in Beaumont. In addition to his parish assignments, he has served on numerous diocesan councils and committees and is presently a Pastor-Consultor for the Diocese of Beaumont. He is on the Board of Shalom Center in Houston, TX.

**Michele Smith, partner at Mehaffy Weber Attorneys.** Graduating from Lamar University with a BBA Degree in Accounting, she received her Juris Doctorate from Baylor University School of Law in 1992. Having joined Mehaffy Weber in 1993, she has more than 16 years of diverse jury trial experience and represents clients in general litigation, with a concentration in complex mass tort litigation and products liability. She is board certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. She is an active member of the Jefferson County Bar Association and acts as an attorney volunteer for the Pro Bono Program. She was named the Jefferson County Bar Association Young Lawyer of the Year for 2002. She is a member of St. Anne Parish in Beaumont.

**John B. Stevens, Jr.,** was elected *Criminal District Court Judge for Jefferson County* (2006), after serving for 20 years as Assistant U.S. Attorney. He received his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Houston in 1979, his Master of Social Science from Syracuse University in 2001, and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Lamar University. He served as Assistant Criminal District Attorney from 1979-81, and was an Associate with Provost, Umphrey et al. from 1981-85, before becoming an Assistant U. S. Attorney in 1985. He was the Criminal Division Chief from 1993-2002. He has written several articles which have been published by the Justice Department and used for prosecutor training. He has held membership on the State Bar Rules of Evidence and the Advanced Criminal Law Course Planning Committees. He is currently a board member for the Salvation Army and the 100 Club of Jefferson and Hardin Counties. He is married to Marcia, Superintendent for Catholic Schools, and they have two daughters.

**Sister Esther Dunegan, IWBS, J.C.L., Chancellor-Diocese of Beaumont; [ex officio].** A Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Corpus Christi since 1965, she received a Bachelor of Business Administration from St. Mary's University, San Antonio, in 1970, and in 1988 she received a Licentiate in Canon Law from The Catholic University of

America, Washington, D.C. After being an educator for almost 10 years, she transferred to the Diocese of Brownsville in 1979 where she served as pension-insurance coordinator and Advocate for the Tribunal. She was appointed Collegiate Judge in the Tribunal and Chancellor of the Diocese from 1989 to 1995. In November, 1995, she transferred to the Diocese of Beaumont, where she was appointed Chancellor, a position which she currently holds. From 1996 to June, 2004, she served two terms on the Leadership Team of her Religious Institute, and another term from June, 2008 to June, 2012.

**Msgr. Michael A. Jamail, J.C.D., Ed.D., Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia, Diocese of Beaumont; [ex officio].** He received the bachelor (1967) and licentiate degree (1968) in Canon Law from the Pontifical Lateran University, Rome, and the doctorate (1969) from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.; a Master of Theology (1971), University of St. Thomas, Houston; an M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Notre Dame University (1970), and the doctorate (1973) from Texas A&M University - Commerce. He is licensed (#2-1072) for the practice of psychology by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and is listed in the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology. Ordained a priest in 1960, he has served as associate pastor in parishes; as teacher and counselor in Catholic high schools; Judicial Vicar, Promoter of Justice, and Defender of the Bond for the Diocesan Tribunal; and director of Holy Family Retreat Center, Beaumont. He has served on various professional boards including the Beaumont Mental Health and Retardation Authority, the Texas Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, and the C. G. Jung Educational Center, Houston. Since 1994, he has been Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia of the Diocese.

**Father M. Shane Baxter, S.T.L.: Pro-Vicar General of the Diocese of Beaumont and Pastor of St. Elizabeth parish in Port Neches, TX; [ex officio]** After graduation from Port Neches-Groves High School in 1983, he served in United States Navy from 1983-89 as a Nuclear Machinist Mate. From 1989-90, he worked as Outside Machinist Electric Boat in Groton Connecticut, and from 1990-96, he was a Maintenance Data Analyst for Information Network Systems in Beaumont. He entered Holy Trinity Seminary in 1996 for the Diocese of Beaumont and graduated from the University of Dallas 1999 with a Bachelor's in Philosophy and Letters. He received a Bachelor's in Theology in 2002 from the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Urbe (Angelicum) in Rome. After ordination as a Priest for the Diocese of Beaumont on June 28, 2003, he received an S.T.L. in Moral Theology from the Alfonsian Academy of the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome in 2004. He served as Associate Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo parish in Nederland, TX, from 2004-2007, and Director of Vocations and Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Beaumont from 2007-2014. He has been Pastor of St. Elizabeth's since 2014 and Pro-Vicar General since 2015.

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**Legal Consultant to the Diocesan Review Board:** (5-11-2011)

Mr. Randy Cashiola, J.D., Diocesan Attorney  
Cashiola Law Firm, 2090 Broadway, Beaumont, TX 77701