

# U.S. bishops name top FBI official to monitor clerical sex-abuse cleanup

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Roman Catholic bishops Thursday named the FBI's No. 3 official to monitor the church's new policy on clerical sex abuse and help prevent future scandals.

Kathleen McChesney, 51, will be the first executive director of the church's Office for Child and Youth Protection. It is a critical post as the bishops seek to re-establish their credibility after a year in which at least 300 of the 46,000 American priests have been removed because of allegations of molestation.

"Even one case of child abuse is intolerable. Our churches need to be safe havens for everyone," McChesney told a news conference at the bishops' headquarters, where she begins work Dec. 2.

McChesney is described by colleagues as someone with well-sharpened people skills and political instincts, and as a tough investigator despite a soft-spoken manner.

In an interview, she had little hesitation when she was asked to consider the post over the summer, despite the prospect of leaving a law-enforcement career of 31 years.

More than 40 candidates were considered for the job, said Monsignor William P. Fay, general secretary of the bishops' conference, who made the appointment.

A lifelong lay Catholic, McChesney has followed the church's abuse scandal with growing dismay since the 1997 cases that almost bankrupted the Dallas diocese, culminating this year.

But she expressed confidence that the American bishops are determined to turn things around. She said the National Review Board, which will monitor McChesney's office and work with her to monitor the bishops' performance, and her own office, are

both unique.

Those two steps, she said, "express that the bishops want to fix this problem. It's not going to be me that fixes it. It's going to be a lot of people."

"The goal? No more cases."

Fay told reporters the review board, the office and other costs of the abuse policy would exceed \$1 million next year.

At the FBI, McChesney has been executive assistant director, responsible for liaison with the nation's 18,000 law enforcement agencies and bureau operations in 44 foreign countries. The post was created by FBI Director Robert Mueller following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, to improve coordination with local law enforcement.

McChesney took that job last Dec. 1 after serving as special agent in charge of the Chicago office since 1999 and assistant director of its training division since June 2001. She started with the county police in the Seattle area and joined the FBI in 1978 in San Francisco.

FBI Director Robert Mueller said Thursday that McChesney "has distinguished herself and made important contributions as an innovator and leader in the law enforcement community."

Walter Stowe, who was McChesney's top aide at the Chicago FBI office, said "she is absolutely fearless, so controversial issues are not going to be any problem for Kathleen."

Prominent Washington attorney Robert S. Bennett ran the search for a director as a member of the National Review Board. "She was just made to order," he said.

Groups representing abuse victims praised the choice but said McChesney

## Church names abuse monitor

Kathleen McChesney, 51, was named Thursday to head the Roman Catholic Church's newly created Office for Child and Youth Protection. McChesney is leaving her job as FBI executive assistant director.

- ▶ Holds a Ph.D. in public administration
- ▶ Joined FBI in 1978 and assigned to its San Francisco office.
- ▶ Transferred in 1983 to Washington, D.C., headquarters.
- ▶ Worked in field offices in Detroit, Los Angeles, Portland, Ore., and Chicago.



McChesney

SOURCES: Associated Press; FBI AP

faces a tough job, made more difficult by changes that weaken the bishops' original reform plan after talks at the Vatican.

Proposed revisions to that plan will be discussed by all U.S. bishops at a Washington meeting starting Monday. McChesney's office itself is not affected by the latest changes.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Mentally ill death row prisoner gets reprieve

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A mentally ill condemned killer won a reprieve from the Texas death chamber after his lawyers filed a last-minute appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court that questioned his mental competency.

James Colburn, 42, a diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic, was set to die just after 6 p.m. Wednesday for choking and stabbing a 55-year-old hitchhiker in 1994.

The appeal was received at 5:59 p.m., one minute before Colburn could have been taken

from his cell and strapped to the death chamber gurney, officials said.

Two hours later, Colburn received the indefinite reprieve, which delays the execution at least 30 days while the court decides whether to review the case.

#### Man shoots son, wife outside son's school

LIBERTY, Mo. (AP) — A man waiting in a parking lot outside his son's school shot the fourth-grader to death and wounded the boy's mother Thursday said a domestic dispute, police said.

The shootings happened around 12:30 p.m. as the woman was picking up the boy at St. James Catholic School, which serves 322 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Police Lt. Mark Misenhelter said the gunman was the child's father. He said the suspect had argued with the boy's mother earlier in the day, though their relationship was not immediately clear.

The suspect was arrested about an hour later at a liquor store in Kansas City, 20 miles away. Kansas City police spokesman Tony Sanders said

police got a tip that the man had said he was trying to get out of town because he had just shot someone.

The identities and ages of the victims were not immediately provided. Police said the boy died at the scene.

The schoolchildren were taken to a nearby movie theater to await the arrival of their parents. Among the pupils was the boy's sister, who police say saw the shooting.

Ed Ludwig hurried to the theater to retrieve his 7-year-old granddaughter, a second-grader, after hearing about the shooting on television.

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**PRESENTS**

**Tim Dean**  
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Tim Dean, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of English at the University of Buffalo SUNY, where he is also affiliated with the Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture.

Monday, November 11:  
7:00 PM; MSC 206.  
Co-Sponsors: Dean of Faculties, English Department, the GLBT Professional Network, Gender Issues Education Services and the Women's Studies Program

Professor Dean's talk will focus on Judith Butler's latest work in *Antigone's Claim* and what this work offers for attempts to think about non-normative families, reproductive issues (LGBT adoptions, lesbian moms, and other issues of biological and social reproduction within queer communities), and his ongoing effort to think psychoanalytically about desire outside the Oedipal framework.

For more details, contact the Women's Center at [wmcc@tamu.edu](mailto:wmcc@tamu.edu) or on 943-8784

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