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

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Roman both unique. tholic bishops Thursday named the FBI's 3 official to monitor the church's new licy on clerical sex abuse and help prevent

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

"Even one case of child abuse is intolera-Our churches need to be safe havens for eryone," McChesney told a news confernce at the bishops' headquarters, where she ins work Dec. 2.

McChesney is described by colleagues as meone with well-sharpened people skills d political instincts, and as a tough investiator despite a soft-spoken manner. In an interview, she had little hesitation

hen she was asked to consider the post over summer, despite the prospect of leaving a w-enforcement career of 31 years. More than 40 candidates were considered

r the job, said Monsignor William P. Fay, neral secretary of the bishops' conference, ho made the appointment.

A lifelong lay Catholic, McChesney has llowed the church's abuse scandal with rowing dismay since the 1997 cases that nost bankrupted the Dallas diocese, culmiating this year.

But she expressed confidence that the nerican bishops are determined to turn ngs around. She said the National Review ard, which will monitor McChesney's ffice and work with her to monitor the bishps' performance, and her own office, are

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

"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.

Ore., and Chicago.





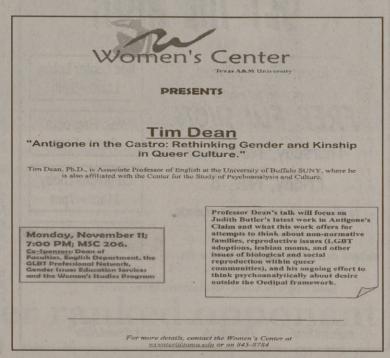
► Transferred in 1983 to Washington, D.C., headquarters. ► Worked in field offices in Detroit, Los Angeles, Portland,

SOURCES: Associated Press; FBI

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.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mentally ill death row prisoner gets reprieve

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) - A entally 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. ednesday for choking and stabbing a 55-year-old hitchhik-

The appeal was received at 559 p.m., one minute before from his cell and strapped to the death chamber gurney, officials

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

outside son's school

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

Police Lt. Mark Misenhelter said the gunman was the child's father. He said the suspect had 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 Among the pupils was the boy's shooting.







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