

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings Independent Review Board

As mandated in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, Bishop Anthony M. Milone established a group of competent people to turn to for advice. As stated in the Charter, "Dioceses . . . will also have a review board that functions as a confidential consultative body to the bishop... The majority of its members will be lay persons not in the employ of the diocese... This board will advise the diocesan...bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of suitability for ministry. It will regularly review diocesan...policies and procedures for dealing with sexual abuse of minors. Also, the board can review these matters both retrospectively and prospectively and give advice on all aspects of responses required in connection with these cases" (USCCB Charter and Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People, Article 12).

Members of the Independent Review Board and their terms are as follows:

- D. Patrick McKittrick, *Chair II 4/13*
- Sr. Bernadette Helfert, *SCL Vice-Chair II 4/13*

- Lynne Gillig, *I 4/13*
- Teresa McCann-O'Connor, *II 4/13*
- Verne Petermann, *II 4/13*
- Sue Swan, *II 4/13*
- Rev Ted Szudera, *Priest Member, I 4/12*

Ex-Officio Members

- Maxon Davis, *Diocesan Attorney*
- Rev. Jay H. Peterson, *Diocesan Vicar General*
- Sr. Kathleen Kane, *OP, Victim Assistance Coordinator*
- Joseph Loncki, *Diocesan Business Manager*
- Rev. John Robertson, *Promoter of Justice*

D. Patrick McKittrick – married, wife Sharon, four children and eight grandchildren, members of Holy Spirit Church in Great Falls. In 1963, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Carroll College, and in 1966, his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Montana. Pat served as a Law Clerk to the Montana Supreme Court and as Cascade County Deputy Attorney. From 1971-77, he served in the Montana State Legislature, serving as Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1975-77. He was recognized as an Outstanding Legislator by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. Pat has served on numerous boards including the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Board. Also, he served in an advisory capacity to the Montana Catholic Conference regarding legislative issues. Pat is active in his parish and is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Pat is a member of the Red Mass Committee in Great Falls. The Cascade County Bar Association recently presented Pat with the Edward C. Alexander Award for distinguished legal service which exemplifies the essence of professionalism. He

has a Martindale-Hubbell Rating of AV and is named in the publication, *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Sister Bernadette Helfert, SCL – Montana native, born in Helena and raised in the smelter town of East Helena. Love of the land comes naturally for her as her family comes from a line of farmers, ranchers and miners. The Sisters of Charity educated her from grade school through college, so their influence was pervasive as she was growing up. So much so that she entered the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth after attending St. Mary College for one year. As a sister, she has had wonderful opportunities – and challenges – as a teacher, principal and school consultant. For 12 years she served on the congregation's leadership team. She also served as the Pastoral Administrator in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings for the parishes of Chinook, Harlem and Turner. Currently, she serves as the vice-president of Mission Integration for the Montana Region which includes St. Vincent Healthcare, Billings, St. James Healthcare, Butte and Holy Rosary Healthcare, Miles City. Over the course of years, she has also served on numerous boards, councils and committees. Her hobbies include piano, gardening, flower arranging, photography, making note-cards, camping and hiking.

Lynn Gillig - Lynne Kennedy Gillig is a member of Holy Rosary Church in Billings along with her husband Ed and sons, Edward and Paul. Lynne has a Master's degree in counseling, a degree in theology and is currently employed as a pastoral associate at Holy Rosary. She has over 20 years of experience in the counseling and social services field; including domestic and international adoption, chemical dependency counseling, sexual abuse and marriage and family therapy. She is currently a contract employee for the 13th Judicial District Court providing child custody assessments. Lynne is a Virtus facilitator and trainer for the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings. She enjoys gardening, sports and lattes.

Teresa McCann-O'Connor

Verne Petermann – born and raised in Wibaux, Montana, and received his A.A. degree from Dawson College in 1967. He served in the US Army, 82nd Airborne Division from 1969-1971. He received his B.A. degree from Eastern Montana College in 1976. He served in the Billings Police Department from 1976 to 2006 and is currently retired. He has been active in Critical Incident Stress Management, Victim Services, Family Violence Intervention, and the Attorney General's Anti-Terrorism Task Force. He married Karen Lemm in 1983. Karen has been teaching in the Catholic schools since 1976 and is currently principal of St. Francis Primary. They have three children and are members of St. Thomas Parish. He joined the church in 1982, having been baptized and confirmed at Little Flower Parish. He represented Little Flower Parish on the Billings Catholic School Board from 1994 to 2000. He was part of Marriage Encounter Team 1984 to 1989 and Cursillo in 1993. He is an associate member of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

Susan M. Swan – educational background prepares her well for membership on the Independent Review Board. She attended MSU-Northern in Havre from 1980 to 1985, attaining a B.S. degree in Secondary Education, with a Major in Education-Trades and Industry and a Minor in English. From 1962 to 1965, she attended St. Catherin's Hospital School of Nursing, Brooklyn, NY and became a registered nurse. In 1990, she participated in Stephen's Ministry Leadership Training. In 1998, she attained Parish Nurse Basic Education, Carroll College, Helena. Her employment history contributes to her expertise as well. Since 1991, she has been director of Student Services at MSU Northern and is responsible for preventative health needs of the student body of 140 members. During this time she has also served in Hill County Health Department in Havre, an AIDS counselor/health educator and is state-trained to do AIDS counseling, testing and education in addition to supporting HIV infected clients and families. She is also involved in community activities. She is secretary for the Montana Higher Education Network for Substance Abuse Prevention and treasurer for Montana Nurses Association District 6. She is co-facilitator of New Beginnings (a healing program for separated, divorced and widowed persons), an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a lay leader of prayer, and a Parish Nurse Activities Breast and Cervical Health Program director at St. Jude Parish in Havre; she chairs the Public Education Committee and serves as secretary to the American Red Cross Bears Paw District.

Father Ted Szudera – currently serves as Pastor of St. Mark's Church in Belt, along with missions of St. Clements in Monarch, St. Mary's in Raynesford and Holy Trinity Church in Centerville. He has served as associate pastor of St. Mary Church in Livingston and Pastor of Holy Family Church in Great Falls and St. Mathias Church in Moore, Montana. Father Szudera was ordained a priest in 1977 in Billings. As a certified addictions counselor he facilitated the Family Program for GateWay Recovery Center (formerly Providence Services) for 12 years from 1994 until 2006. He continues to serve the needs, most especially family services, as a registry counselor at Benefis Behavioral Healthcare Systems of Great Falls. From his experience as a member of the Board of Directors of GateWay, current licensed addiction counselor and as a priest for the Diocese for over 30 years, he brings pastoral experience as well as awareness of current information pertaining to the field of behavioral health. He enjoys outdoor activities, most especially fishing and skiing.