



Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

LIST OF CLERGY AGAINST WHOM HAVE BEEN MADE SUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Background

That the evil of clergy sexual abuse of children has occurred in the Church is a fact that rightly provokes anger, shock, and profound sadness. In an effort to do justice to those who experienced this type of abuse and to protect others from future harm, the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland has, since April of 2002, published on its website the names of those diocesan clerics who were removed from ministry from 2002 through the present as a result of sexual abuse of a child. Expanding on that effort, the Most Reverend Nelson J. Perez announced in October of 2018 that this information would be compiled in a list format and supplemented with the names of any other diocesan clerics who were removed from ministry as a result of sexual abuse of a child or who is already deceased or no longer in ministry for any reason and against whom has been made a substantiated allegation of child sexual abuse.

Below is a list of those diocesan clerics against whom have been made substantiated allegations of child sexual abuse along with two additional lists identifying diocesan clerics currently placed on administrative leave or whose ministry has been restricted due to an allegation of child sexual abuse. In order to understand what these lists represent, and what they do not, please read the following definitions and explanation.

Definitions

- **Child**. A person under the age of 18.
- **Cleric**. An ordained priest or deacon of the Catholic Church.
- **Diocesan Cleric**. A cleric ordained for and incardinated in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. This term and the lists below do not include nondiocesan clergy, which includes any cleric who belongs to a religious order.
- **Substantiated Allegation**. An allegation that has been determined to be more likely true than not true. An allegation may be considered substantiated for purposes of the initial list below if one or more of the following is true:
 - The cleric has admitted to sexually abusing a child.
 - The cleric has been found guilty of sexually abusing a child in a criminal court of law.
 - In the case of a cleric who is alive and in ministry at the time an allegation is made, it has been determined by appropriate canonical process that the allegation is true.

- In the case of a cleric who is deceased or no longer in active ministry at the time an allegation is made, a determination is made by the diocese, after reviewing all available evidence, that the allegation is more likely than not to be true.
- **Removed from the Clerical State.** A cleric is removed from the clerical state if the Holy See has returned the cleric to a status essentially equivalent to that of a lay person. Practically speaking, a cleric who has been removed from the clerical state is prohibited from saying Mass, hearing confessions (except in certain extreme circumstances), administering the sacraments, wearing clerical garb, presenting himself as a cleric, using the title “Father” or “Reverend,” or otherwise exercising sacred ministry in the Church. This is sometimes referred to colloquially as being “laicized.”
- **Prayer and Penance.** A cleric who has been sentenced canonically to a life of prayer and penance has been permanently removed from engaging in public ministry and is obligated to live alone in prayer.
- **Permanently Removed from Ministry.** A cleric who has been permanently removed from ministry, while not technically removed from the clerical state, is one prohibited by the diocesan bishop from exercising ministry to the same extent as one whom the Holy See has removed from the clerical state.

The Lists

Below are three lists. The first list includes the names of any diocesan cleric (a) who was removed from ministry as a result of the sexual abuse of a child; and/or (b) against whom has been made a Substantiated Allegation of child sexual abuse.

The second list includes the names of diocesan clerics who are currently on administrative leave pending a final determination of their status by the Holy See.

The third list includes the names of diocesan clerics who are currently removed from ministry for reasons related to an allegation of child sexual abuse that is not, at this time, substantiated.

Please note that if an asterisk (*) appears next to a name on any list, the name of that diocesan cleric previously was published by the diocese.

Process for Determining Who is Named on the First List Below

Prior to the publication of this list, all available clergy files were reviewed with the assistance of an advisory committee convened by the bishop to determine which diocesan clergy, living or deceased, had at any time in the past, ever been accused of sexually abusing a child. Once this had been done, the files and records of an accused diocesan cleric were reviewed and a determination made as to whether the accusation constituted a Substantiated Allegation in light of the totality of the facts and circumstances.

Limitations

While this list is as comprehensive as possible, because of the inherent limitations resulting from the age of or lack of evidence relating to certain allegations as well as simple human fallibility, it can never be said with certainty that this list contains the names of every diocesan cleric who has

ever sexually abused a child in the Diocese of Cleveland. In light of this, there may be those who in fact experienced abuse but who do not see the name of the cleric who abused them on this list. The fact that the name of an accused diocesan cleric does not appear on this list is not a repudiation of the allegation or a denial that the alleged abuse occurred. Likewise, it is possible that there are clerics named on this list who may in fact be innocent of what they have been accused of doing. In light of this, this list will always be a work in progress and the diocese will continue to consider both new allegations as well as new information about old allegations so that, as much as humanly possible, this list will be complete and accurate.

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Please note that if an asterisk (*) appears next to a name on any list, the name of that diocesan cleric previously was published by the diocese.

Name	Ordination Date	Current Status
1. Richard Arko*	May 26, 1990	Removed from clerical state
2. George Bailey*	May 18, 1963	Removed from clerical state
3. Jerome Bals (Deacon)	July 22, 1973	Permanently removed from ministry
4. Russell Banner*	May 20, 1967	Removed from clerical state
5. Raymond Bartnikowski*	May 18, 1963	Deceased
6. Gary Berthiaume*	June 1, 1968	Removed from clerical state
7. Kenneth Bogucki	June 9, 1984	Removed from clerical state
8. Donald Brickman*	June 13, 1981	Removed from clerical state
9. Joseph Brodnick*	May 31, 1969	Permanently removed from ministry
10. Allen Bruening*	April 28, 1951	Deceased
11. Thomas Burg*	May 23, 1964	Deceased
12. John Ciolek	April 2, 1938	Deceased
13. John Connor	May 23, 1959	Deceased
14. Neil Conway*	May 18, 1963	Permanently removed from ministry
15. Joseph Ehrbar	May 26, 1945	Deceased
16. Leonard Ferrante*	May 23, 1964	Removed from clerical state
17. Patrick Henry*	June 6, 1981	Removed from clerical state
18. John Jacoby	February 28, 1953	Deceased
19. Edward Kickel	April 17, 1922	Deceased
20. Liam Kitt	June 19, 1943	Deceased
21. Frank Klamet	June 10, 1978	Deceased
22. Joseph Labbe*	June 14, 1975	Removed from clerical state
23. Joseph Lang*	May 22, 1965	Deceased
24. Joseph Lieberth*	May 25, 1968	Life of prayer and penance
25. Martin Louis*	May 21, 1966	Removed from clerical state
26. Thomas Luckay*	May 22, 1965	Permanently removed from ministry
27. Daniel McBride	April 28, 1951	Deceased
28. John William McCool*	October 11, 1973	Removed from clerical state
29. J. Brendan McNulty*	June 8, 1974	Removed from clerical state

30. Nicholas Monaghan	December 21, 1907	Deceased
31. John Mueller	May 23, 1959	Deceased
32. Frederick James Mulica*	May 20, 1967	Deceased
33. Patrick J. O'Connor*	January 12, 1985	Removed from clerical state
34. Anthony Rebol*	May 19, 1956	Deceased
35. Joseph Romansky*	September 20, 1975	Deceased
36. Donald Rooney	June 9, 1979	Deceased
37. Edward Rupp*	May 28, 1960	Deceased
38. Joseph Seminatore	May 31, 1969	Permanently removed from ministry
39. Julius Slapsak	June 29, 1925	Deceased
40. James Viall	December 18, 1954	Deceased
41. John Vovko	May 25, 1968	Deceased
42. David C. Weber*	January 15, 1977	Removed from clerical state
43. Carl Wernet	May 21, 1932	Deceased
44. Joseph Williams	May 31, 1969	Permanently removed from ministry
45. Dennis Wirks*	May 31, 1969	Removed from clerical state
46. John Wittreich	May 31, 1947	Deceased

CLERICS ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE AS A RESULT OF AN ALLEGATION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Name	Ordination Date	Status
1. Matthew Ischay*	June 29, 1975	Administrative leave pending decision of the Holy See regarding removal from clerical state
2. Theodore Lucas*	June 9, 1984	Administrative leave pending decision of the Holy See regarding removal from clerical state
3. James McGonegal	May 29, 1971	Administrative leave pending decision of the Holy See regarding removal from clerical state
4. Anthony Schuerger	June 11, 1977	Administrative leave pending further investigation of the allegation by the diocesan Review Board

CLERICS WHOSE MINISTRY HAS BEEN RESTRICTED AS A RESULT OF AN ALLEGATION WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN SUBSTANTIATED

Name	Ordination Date	Status
1. Ronald Tomicky*	June 14, 1975	Retired / Total & Permanent Disability with no faculties for public ministry.