Diocese Publishes Names of Priests Accused of Abusing Minors

January 31, 2019

Amarillo—The Diocese of Amarillo, as part of its ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability and pastoral care, is publishing the names of 30 former priests who served in the diocese who have been accused of sexually abusing a minor.

“The Diocese of Amarillo seeks to express regret and apologizes for the failing and sins that have hurt the Church so deeply, especially in our most vulnerable members,” said Bishop Patrick J. Zurek. “The Diocese especially asks forgiveness for the failings of those who have held positions of leadership in the Church.”

Of the 30, 22 are known or believed to be deceased and five are or were in prison, and one is awaiting criminal trial. None are in active ministry.

“In conformance with my commitment to transparency in the Church, for the healing, spiritual good, and assistance of victims of sexual abuse of minors by clergy, the Diocese is publishing the names of Roman Catholic clergy against whom credible allegations have been made within the Diocese between January 1, 1950 and December 31, 2018,” said Bishop Zurek.

Important Information about the geographical boundaries of the Diocese before and after October 16, 1961

The Diocese of Amarillo was established on August 26, 1926. At the time of its establishment, the Diocese encompassed approximately 73,000 square miles. Prior to October 16, 1961, the geographical boundaries of the Diocese included 37,433
square miles of territory that is now part of the Diocese of San Angelo, and prior to June 17, 1983, included 23,382 square miles of territory that is now part of the Diocese of Lubbock. After the divisions of the Diocese, now 25,800 square miles constitute the Diocese of Amarillo; most members of the clergy remained in their new Dioceses.

Identification of Members of the Clergy
Members of clergy who appear on this list include: ordained priests of the Diocese, priests belonging to religious orders (e.g., Franciscans, Vincentians, Oblates, Pallottines and others) that served in the Diocese, and extern priests. An extern priest is defined as a priest who was incardinated in another diocese, but was serving in the Diocese of Amarillo with faculties granted by the Bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo.

Definition of Credible Allegation
A “credible allegation” is one that the Bishop determines there is reason to believe is true after review of reasonably available, relevant information and after receiving the recommendation of the Diocesan Review Board. The Diocesan Review Board is constituted principally by lay professionals. Beginning in 2002, claims of sexual abuse submitted directly to the Diocese were reviewed by the Charter Review Board mandated by the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The recommendations of the Review Board were presented to the Bishop with recommendations for a determination. Prior to 2002, allegations were reviewed by a committee appointed by the Bishop or the Bishop’s staff.

A determination that an allegation against a member of the clergy is credible and should be published, is not equivalent to a finding by a judge or jury that the cleric is liable for sexual abuse of a minor under civil law or has committed criminal sexual abuse of a minor under the Texas Penal Code.

A determination that an allegation against a member of the clergy is credible is a finding by the Bishop that the conduct described in a claim constitutes a violation of the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Here are the names of clergy with credible accusation of sexual abuse of minors while serving in the Diocese of Amarillo:

Credible accusations occurred in the Diocese of Amarillo.
CLAUDE BARTON
Date Of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 1/16/1908
Ordination/Ordenación:
Deceased/Falleció: 11/9/79
   St. Mary’s, Odessa
   St. John’s, Hermleigh
   St. Laurence, Amarillo
   St. Francis Convent, Amarillo

ORVILLE RAYMOND BLUM
Date Of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 7/8/1937
Ordained/Ordenación: Amarillo Diocese 5/26/1962
   Alamo Catholic High School, Amarillo
   St. Laurence, Amarillo
   St. John the Evangelist, Borger
   St. Joseph, Stratford
   Blessed Sacrament, Amarillo
   St. Joseph’s, Amarillo
   St. Anthony’s, Hereford

THOMAS HUBERT (PATRICK) BURKE
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 7/20/1930, Ireland
Ordained/Ordenación: 6/15/1957 for the Diocese of Amarillo—Para la Diócesis de Amarillo
Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 10/1957-2/24/1975
   Sacred Heart, Amarillo
   St. Elizabeth, Lubbock
   Our Mother of Mercy, Wellington
   St. Patrick’s, Shamrock
   St. Mary’s, Spur
TERRANCE BURKE
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 4/26/1940, Ireland
Ordained/Ordenación: 8/4/1975 Diocese of Amarillo
Deceased/Falleció: @2016
- St. Mary’s, Amarillo
- St. Joseph, Stratford
- Christ the King, Lubbock
- Holy Angels, Childress
- Immaculate Conception, Muleshoe
- Church of the Holy Spirit, Tulia
- Holy Name of Jesus, Happy
- Catholic Student Center, Canyon
- St. Mary’s, Clarendon
- Morning Star Hostel/Mark Schupp Center

ANTHONY CATALINA
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 1902
Ordained/Ordenación: 1929 Vincentians {location unknown}
Deceased/Falleció: 11/30/1968
- Sacred Heart, Littlefield
- Sacred Heart, Petersburg
- Sacred Heart, Canadian

LAURENCE (LORCAN) CONNAUGHTON
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 11/23/1920
Ordained/Ordenación: 6/17/1951 Amarillo Diocese
Excardinated: 2/1958
Deceased/Falleció: Probably/Probablemente
- St. Francis of Assisi, Amarillo
- Sacred Heart Cathedral/St. Mary’s, Amarillo
- St. Mary’s/Immaculate Heart of Mary, Groom
- St. Anthony of Padua, Dalhart
JOHN W. COPPINGER  
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento:  
Ordination/Ordenación: 1972 Archdiocese of New York  
St. Anthony’s, Hereford

JAMES LESLIE (LAURENCE) DALY  
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 10/2/1902  
Ordained/Ordenación: 5/4/1930, Amarillo Diocese  
Deceased/Falleció: 6/26/1988  
St. Ann’s, Canyon  
Price Memorial College, Amarillo  
St. Mary’s, Clarendon  
Immaculate Conception, Vega  
Holy Angels, Childress  
St Patrick’s, Shamrock  
Our Mother of Mercy Wellington  
St. John the Evangelist, Borger  
St. Anthony of Padua, Dalhart  
Christ the King, Lubbock

PETER PAUL DiBENEDETTO  
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 9/14/1940  
Ordained/Ordenación: Amarillo, Texas 6/11/1969  
Deceased/Falleció: 11/28/1995  
St. Hyacinth, Amarillo  
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Spearman  
Immaculate Conception, Vega  
Immaculate Conception, Perryton  
Alamo Catholic High School, Amarillo
EDWARD R. GRAFF
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 1/30/1929
Ordained/Ordenación: 5/19/1955, Allentown, Pennsylvania
Deceased/Falleció: 11/2002
  Church of the Holy Spirit, Tulia
  Our Lady of Loreto, Silverton
  San Juan Diego, Quitaque
  St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Turkey

** Abuse occurred in Diocese of Allentown
** El abuso ocurrió en la diócesis de Allentown.
** Abuse occurred in Diocese of Amarillo
** El abuso ocurrió en la diócesis de Amarillo.

JAMES C. GURZYNSKI
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 4/28/1937
Ordained/Ordenación: 5/25/1963 in Toledo, Ohio for the Diocese of Amarillo
Deceased: Falleció: 4/8/2013
  Our Lady of Grace, Lubbock
  Sacred Heart of Jesus, Spearman
  Sacred Heart, Abernathy
  Sacred Heart, White Deer
  St. Ann’s, Canyon

ROSENDO HERRERA-HERNANDEZ
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 3/1/1965
Ordained/Ordenación: 7/13/1996
  St. Laurence, Amarillo
  St. Vincent de Paul, Pampa
  St. Anthony of Padua, Dalhart
  Our Lady of Guadalupe, Amarillo
  BSA Hospital
ROBERT PATRICK HOFFMAN
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 8/29/1940
Ordained/Ordenación: 5/25, 1968, Amarillo Diocese
Deceased/Falleció: 3/20/2005
    St. Margaret Mary, Lamesa
    St. Pius X, O’Donnell
    Immaculate Conception, Perryton
    St. Laurence, Amarillo

DAVID HOLLEY
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: @1929
Ordination/Ordenación: 1958 Order of St. Benedict Abby, Bennet Lake, Wisconsin
Incardinated into the Diocese of Worcester, Wisconsin
Deceased/Falleció: 2008
Served in the Diocese of Amarillo/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 6/1984-12/1984
    St. Joseph’s, Amarillo
In 1993 sentenced to 275 years in prison, Alamogordo, N.M. En 1993 fue sentenciado a 275 años en prisión, Alamogordo, N.M.

RODNEY CHARLES HOWELL
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 8/15/1932
Ordained/Ordenación: 7/6/1965
Deceased/Falleció: 1/10/1993
Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 9/1965-1980
    Sacred Heart, Littlefield
    St. Phillip’s, Shallowater
    St. Michael’s, Ralls
    St. Pius, O’Donnell
JOHN A. HOWLETT
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 
Ordained/Ordenación: 1947 Pallotines Dublin
   {Pallotines Dallas Province}
Deceased/Falleció:
   St. Joseph’s, Lubbock
   St. Michael’s, Ralls
   St. Patrick’s, Lubbock
   St. Vincent Pallotti, Lubbock
   St. Anthony’s, Brownfield

JAMES (JIM) D. HUTZLER
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 2/26/1944
Ordained/Ordenación: 7/25/1980
   Alamo Catholic High School, Amarillo
   Our Lady of Grace, Lubbock
   St. Joseph, Amarillo
   Our Mother of Mercy, Wellington
   St. Anthony of Padua, Dalhart
   St. Joseph, Stratford
   Sacred Heart, Canadian
   St. Anthony’s Hospital, Amarillo
   St. Mary’s, Umbarger
   St. Theresa, Panhandle
   Sacred Heart, White Deer

RICHARD WALLACE LANG
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 
Ordination/Ordenación: 6/5/1938, Vincentian Fathers of Western Province, St. Louis, MO, (Vincentian, Southern Province, Dallas, Texas)
Deceased/Falleció: 5/30/1974
   Holy Souls, Pampa
   Sacred Heart, Canadian
JOSEPH RAYMOND LOPEZ
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimieto: 8/31/1939
Ordination/Ordenación: 12/18/1965 for the Diocese of Amarillo
Left Ministry in 1970, was voluntarily Laicized 7/1973
Deceased/Falleció: 2005
   Our Lady of Guadalupe, Amarillo

GERALD V. LYNCH
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 1/21/1916
Ordained/Ordenación: 12/21/1947
   Cistercian Order, Brighton Mass
Deceased/Falleció: 11/25/1979
Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvio en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 1951-1976
   St. Anthony of Padua, Dalhart
   St. Lucian’s/Price Memorial College, Amarillo
   Holy Angels, Childress
   Sacred Heart of Jesus, Spearman (Perryton)
   Sacred Heart, White Deer.
   Church of the Holy Spirit, Tulia

CLETUS BERNARD MCGORRY
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 11/14/1923
Deceased/Falleció: 2/2/1992
   St. Anthony’s, Hereford
   St. Ann’s, Bovina
AIDEN MAGUIRE
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 
Ordained/Ordenación: {SAC – Society of the Catholic Apostolate Pallotines, Ireland} 
Deceased/Falleció: Unknown – Returned to Ireland in 1981 
  St. Elizabeth, Lubbock  
  St. Anthony’s, Brownfield  
  St. William, Denver City

GUILLERMO MORALES-MARTINEZ
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 4/6/1958 
Ordained/Ordenación: 7/16/1988 
  St. John the Evangelist, Borger  
  Christ the King, Sunray  
  Immaculate Conception, Dimmitt  
  Sacred Heart, Canadian  
  Sacred Heart of Jesus, Spearman  
  St. Ann’s, Stinnett

MICHAEL DERMOT O’BRIEN
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 10/8/1941 
Ordained/Ordenación: 6/13/1965 
Deceased/Falleció: 2/11/1978 
  St. Laurence, Amarillo  
  St. Mary’s, Amarillo  
  Holy Angels, Childress  
  St. Ann’s, Bovina

ALFREDO PRADO
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: @1930 
Ordination/Ordenación: Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, San Antonio, Texas 
Fled to Costa Rica 
Not assigned to the Diocese of Amarillo 
No estubo asignado a la Diócesis de Amarillo 
Allegedly event occurred when conducting a Mission in the Amarillo Diocese. 
Al parecer, el suceso se produjo al llevar a cabo una Misión en la Diócesis de Amarillo.
**JOHN ANTHONY SALAZAR-JIMENEZ**  
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 8/20/1955  
Ordained/Ordenación: 10/24/1984, Calasanzian Piarist Fathers, Los Angeles  
  Church of the Holy Spirit, Tulia  
  San Jose, Hereford  
*Accusations occurred in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
*Acusaciones ocurridas en la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles.  
**Accusation occurred in Diocese of Amarillo  
** Acusación ocurrió en la diócesis de Amarillo.

J. MELTON SILVA  
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento:  
Ordination/Ordenación:  
Deceased/Falleció: 1999  
  Immaculate Conception, Perryton  
  Holy Cross, Post  
  St. Mary’s, Spur

JOHN SULLIVAN  
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: January 3, 1917  
Ordained/Ordenación: June 30, 1942 Diocese of Manchester, N.H.  
Deceased/Falleció: 1984  
  St. Joseph, Amarillo

PETER MUKEKHE WAFULA  
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 10/20/1979  
Ordination/Ordenación: 12/9/2017 Crusaders of the Holy Spirit, Parana, Argentina  
Removed from Ministry July 10, 2018  
Served in the Diocese of Amarillo/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: February - July 2018  
  San Jose, Hereford  
  St. Teresa of Jesus, Friona  
  St. Ann’s, Bovina  
Indicted by the Parmer County Grand Jury in October 2018, awaiting trial.  
Acusado por el Gran Jurado del Condado de Parmer en octubre de 2018, en espera de juicio.
BRUCE EDWARD (MICHAEL) WOOD
Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 4/5/1937
Ordained/Ordenación: 6/7/1984 Amarillo, Texas
Deceased/Falleció: 6/22/2017
  St. Thomas the Apostle, Amarillo
  St. Joseph, Stratford
  Alamo Catholic High School, Amarillo
  St. Joseph, Amarillo

Since 2002, the Diocese has implemented a comprehensive Safe Environment Program to ensure safety of the children of the Diocese. Any person who works with children as clergy, employee or volunteer must have a criminal background check and participate in Safe Environment Training. In addition to the Adult Training, all children undergo Safe Environment Training every year.

Every effort has been made by the Bishop, his staff, and the independent Amarillo Diocesan Charter Review Board, to ensure that the list is accurate and those thereupon belong on the list.

Any person with knowledge of a member of a diocesan clergy whose name is not on the list and who allegedly committed sexual abuse of a minor within the Diocese should report such allegations to the Police Department where the event occurred, and if the victim is still a minor, to Child Protective Services. Additionally, such person should also report the allegations to Sharyn Delgado, Victim’s Assistance Coordinator, by calling 806-671-4830. The Diocese will investigate the allegations and present the evidence to the Diocesan Review Board for its opinion whether the allegations constitute a credible accusation. The Review Board will make its recommendation to the Bishop, who will make the final determination and if the allegation is found to be credible, their name will be added to the list.