

Priests Credibly Accused of Sexual Abuse of a Minor

<https://web.archive.org/web/20190213223748/https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/clergyabuselist/>



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

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February 13, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today I am fulfilling a commitment I made to publish a list of all clergy credibly accused of child sexual abuse in the Diocese of Arlington. I made this commitment in the hope that providing such a list might help some victims and survivors of clergy sexual abuse to find further healing and consolation.

The publishing of this list will bring a range of emotions for all of us. Embarrassment, frustration, anger and hurt are all natural emotions to experience in a time such as this. I share those emotions.

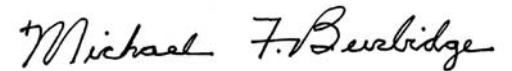
Today I also renew my commitment to continue to implement our policies and protocols, established in accord with the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops' 2002 *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. These have proven to be effective in preventing abuse, standardizing reporting procedures to legal authorities and investigating allegations of sexual abuse of minors. Please know that I remain actively engaged in addressing these issues and pursuing ways to improve our existing efforts.

For victims and survivors of sexual abuse by members of the clergy, I remain open to meeting with you and hearing your stories. Having met with numerous victims and survivors of sexual abuse, both in group settings and in individual meetings, I continue to be inspired by your strength and your resolve.

I am deeply sorry for what has happened to you. You can be assured and confident of my ongoing pastoral care.

Through the mercy of God, may all who have suffered in the Diocese of Arlington as a result of clergy sexual abuse receive healing. May Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us that we go forward under God's guidance toward a future in which all of God's children are safe and secure.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Burbidge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning of the word "Michael".

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

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(Spanish version coming soon)

The list is being published after a full review of all clergy files by experienced and independent examiners (former FBI personnel) who were given full access to all information and files from the history of the Diocese of Arlington since its founding in 1974. In addition to this review, all pertinent information was also fully considered by the Arlington Diocesan Review Board.

Established after the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (2002) and consisting mostly of lay men and women, the Diocesan Review Board examines allegations of sexual abuse of minors by clergy and makes recommendations to the Bishop regarding the credibility of the allegations. Prior to the Review Board's deliberations, the Diocese first reports an allegation to law enforcement and provides them all available related information.

The Diocese cooperates with legal authorities and ensures that its internal investigation does not interfere with their investigation. The Diocesan Review Board then assesses the credibility of the allegation received. It is the practice of the Diocese of Arlington to provide support and assistance to anyone who has been sexually abused, whether or not the credibility of the accusation has been established and regardless of whether the abuser was a cleric.

The names on the list below were considered by the Diocesan Review Board, which then gave its recommendation that these names be published. Bishop Burbidge accepted its recommendation.

Priests on the list below have been accused of sexual abuse of a child and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- The accused admitted guilt;
- There has been a determination of guilt in a criminal court, civil court or by an ecclesiastical process;
- The Arlington or Richmond Diocesan Review Board found the allegation to be credible.

According to diocesan protocol, the faithful have been advised of the names of priests in religious orders or from other dioceses who have served in the Diocese of Arlington and whose names have been previously published by other sources for credible allegations of sexual abuse of minors. That list can be found here: ArlingtonDiocese.org/ChildProtection.

The Diocese published a "[Frequently Asked Questions](#)" document that addresses many of the questions raised in recent months:

- The commitments of the Diocese pertaining to eradicating and addressing clergy sexual abuse
- What the Diocese does when it receives an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor
- Whether the Diocese's policies and procedures have been reviewed by a third-party organization
- How we prevent child sexual abuse in our parishes, schools, and ministries
- How lay people are involved in helping the Bishop create a safe environment for children
- What the Diocesan Review Board is and how it functions
- Whether priests who are credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor can be removed from ministry permanently
- If the Diocese has paid settlements related to child sexual abuse cases and how those settlements were paid

- How our seminarians are kept safe, as well as how they are screened before entering seminary formation

That resource can be found here: [ArlingtonDiocese.org/ChildProtection](https://www.ArlingtonDiocese.org/ChildProtection).

Note: This list is provided based on information available at the time it is published. If the need arises to add names to this list based on the criteria explained above, the Diocese will do so.

A list of priests credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor has also been published by the Diocese of Richmond. Go to [RichmondDiocese.org](https://www.RichmondDiocese.org) to view that list.

Priests Incardinated to the Diocese of Arlington

Name	Year of Birth	Year of Ordination	Incardinated in Arlington Diocese	Removed from Public Ministry	Status
Robert C. Brooks	1932	1961 (Diocese of Richmond)	1974	2004	Retired with no active ministry/faculties: 2006
Christopher M. Buckner	1952	1980	NA	2007	Father Buckner was accused of the sexual abuse of a minor in 2007 and was immediately removed from public ministry. The accusation was found to be credible by the Diocesan Review Board. Father Buckner contests the finding of the Diocesan Review Board. Due to poor health, he waived his right to further canonical recourse, and by mutual agreement between him and the Diocese, he retired without faculties to exercise priestly ministry in 2018. This agreement was approved by the Holy See.
Curtis L. Clark	1958	1984	NA	2003	Laicized: 2004
William J. Erbacher	1946	1987	NA	2001	Directed to live a life of prayer and penance by the Holy See: 2010
Andrew W. Krafcik	1927	1959 (Diocese of Richmond)	1984	2002	Dismissed from the clerical state: 2004
John J. Munley	1924	1954 (Diocese of Richmond)	1975	NA	Deceased: 1995
Tran Dinh Nhi	1944	1971	1980	2006	Father Nhi was accused of the sexual abuse of a minor in 2006; he was immediately removed from public ministry. The accusation was found to be credible by the Diocesan Review Board. Father Nhi contests the finding of the Diocesan Review Board. He remains removed from public ministry pending a final determination of his canonical status.
William T. Reinecke	1939	1965 (Diocese of Richmond)	1974	NA	Deceased: 1992
Stephen A. Roszel	1951	1977	NA	2003	No active ministry/faculties: 2003

Religious Order Priests

Name	Year of Birth	Date of Ordination	Removed from Public Ministry	Status
Scott A. Asalone, O.F.M. Cap. (Capuchin Friars, Capuchin Province of the Stigmata)	1956	1983	1993	Dismissed from his religious order: 2007
Richard P. Baird, C.PP.S. (Missionaries of the Precious Blood)	1912	1940	NA	Deceased: 1996 Father Baird was posthumously accused of sexual abuse of a minor. The allegation was investigated and found credible by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

Richmond Diocese Priests Later Incardinated into Arlington Diocese

*Priests in this list were originally ordained for the Diocese of Richmond and later were incardinated in the Diocese of Arlington after it was established in 1974. They were posthumously accused of the sexual abuse of a minor. The incidents (all alleged to have taken place before 1974) were investigated and found credible by the Diocese of Richmond Review Board.

Name	Year of Birth	Year of Ordination	Incardinated into Arlington Diocese	Removed from Public Ministry	Status
Harris M. Findlay	1914	1941	1974	NA	Deceased: 1980
Paul J. Kamerdze	1942	1970	1974	NA	Deceased: 1984
Robert L. Nudd	1922	1949	1974	NA	Deceased: 1978
John W. Rea	1918	1945	1974	NA	Deceased: 2002
Austin L. Ryder	1915	1948	1974	NA	Deceased: 1981

Note:

In 2011, allegations were brought to the Diocese of Arlington regarding Father Terry Specht. In keeping with policy, the allegations were immediately reported to law enforcement and Father Specht was placed on administrative leave. The Arlington Diocesan Review Board was not able to come to a decision as to the credibility of the accusations against Father Specht. Further, law enforcement has not brought any charges or continued the investigation. Not long after being placed on leave, Father's health became such that he requested and was granted medical retirement. He now lives in retirement, does not have faculties for priestly ministry, and will not return to priestly ministry.