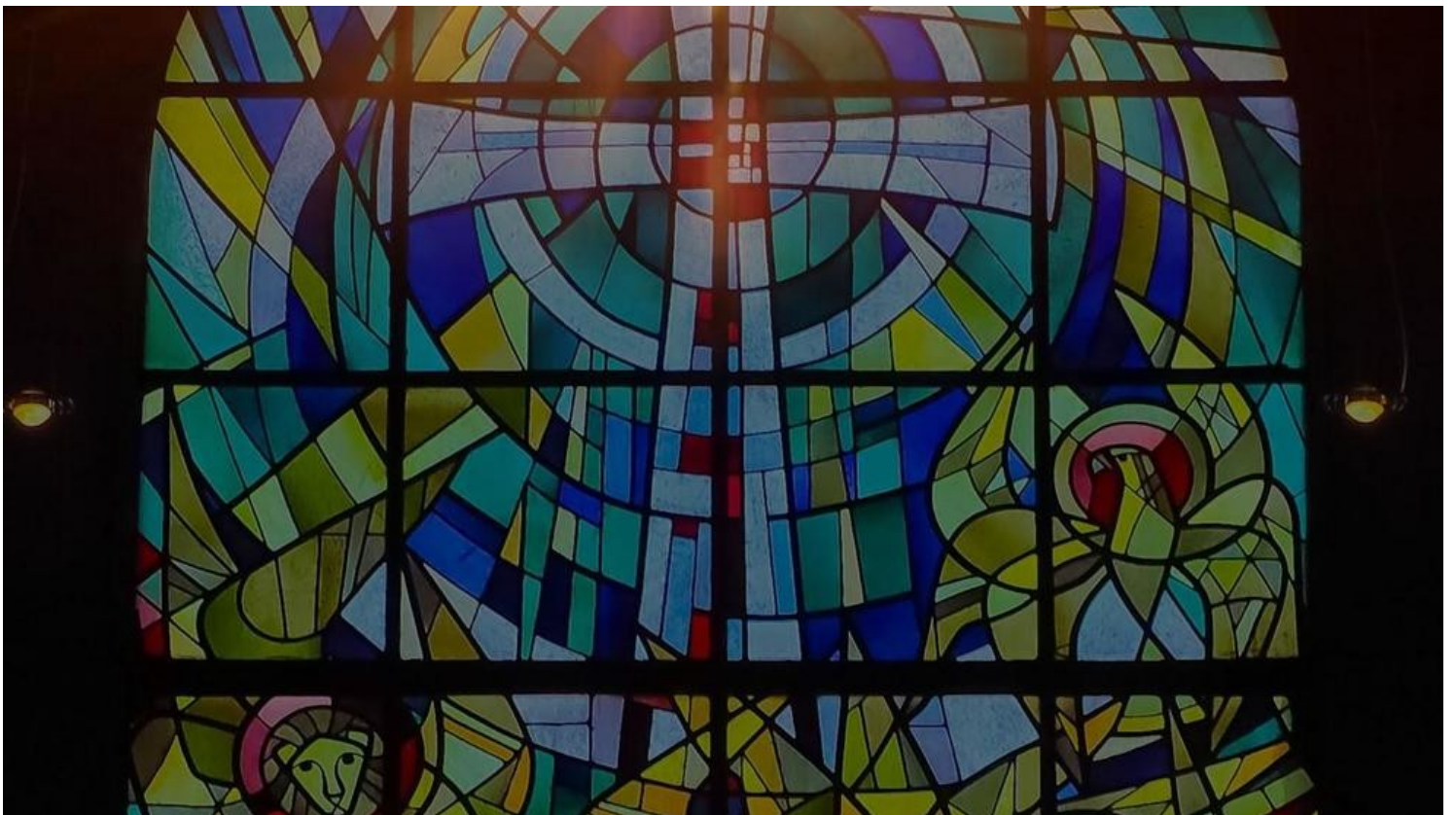


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Advertisement for STK Anywhere TV service, featuring a man and a woman wearing 3D glasses. Text includes 'a new way to watch TV ANYWHERE and it's all FREE' and 'Available on: Roku, Apple TV, Fire TV, iOS & Android'. A 'CHECK IT OUT' button is present.

# 14 clergy with credible allegations of sexual assault listed on Brownsville Diocese list

by CBS 4 News  
Thursday, January 31st 2019



(Source: Pixabay via MGN Online)

Three social media sharing buttons: Facebook (blue), Twitter (light blue), and Email (teal).

The Diocese of Brownsville has released a list of 14 clergy with credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor.

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Humberto Acosta

Born: February 7, 1949

Ordained: May 30, 1974

Left diocese in 1994. Allegation fully disclosed to receiving Military Ordinary in Venezuela.

Assignments: St. Mary, Mother of the Church, Brownsville; St. Joseph Church, Edinburg; St. Anthony Church, Harlingen; Our Lady of Mercy Church, Mercedes; St. Margaret Mary Church, Pharr

Lee DaCosta

Born: June 29, 1937

Ordained: April 23, 1973

Retired in 2012. Faculties removed in 2019 after review team identified him as a priest who had a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor.

Assignments: Sacred Heart Church, Edinburg; Sacred Heart Church, Escobares; St. Theresa Mission Church, Faysville; St. Anthony Church, Harlingen; Holy Family Church, La Grulla; St. Joseph the Worker Church, McAllen; Sacred Heart Church, McAllen; St. Joseph the Worker Mission Church, San Carlos; St. Anne Mission Church, San Manuel; Immaculate Conception Church, Rio Grande City; Our Lady, Queen of the Universe Church, San Benito; St. Joan of Arc Church, Weslaco; San Martin Porres Church, Weslaco; St. Pius X Church, Weslaco

George B. Dyer, O.P.

(deceased)

Born: January 6, 1935

Ordained: June 9, 1961 for the Dominican Friars

He returned to the Dominican Friars in 1983.

Died: 2013

Assignments: St. Luke Church, Brownsville; Campus Ministry, Brownsville and Edinburg

Armando Escobedo

Born: June 8, 1936

Ordained: June 6, 1964

, Brownsville; St. Luke Church, Brownsville; St. Francis

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Church, Mercedes; Our Lady of St. John of the Fields Church, Mission; St. Anthony Church, Raymondville

Terrence Fowler

Born: March 18, 1961

Ordained: June 4, 1988

Faculties removed in 1998. Laicization in process.

Assignments: St. Joseph Church, Alamo; Christ the King Church, Brownsville; St. Luke Church, Brownsville; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Harlingen; Our Lady, Queen of the Universe Church, San Benito

Frank Gomez

(deceased)

Born: October 28, 1928

Ordained: May 27, 1961

Died: May 20, 2014

Faculties removed in 1994.

Assignments: St. Joseph Church, Alamo; Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Brownsville; St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Church, Laredo; St. Francis Xavier Church, La Feria; Sacred Heart Church, Mercedes; St. Theresa Church, San Benito; St. Mary Church, Santa Rosa; San Martin de Porres Church, Weslaco;

James Jeffrey

(deceased)

Born: June 15, 1933

Ordained: May 30, 1959 for the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota

Died: May 28, 2017

A priest who was on loan to Diocese of Brownsville. Faculties removed in 1988 and he returned to home diocese.

Assignments: Christ the King Church, Brownsville; St. Francis Xavier Church, La Feria

Basil Onyia

Born: May 22, 1966

Ordained: July 13, 1996 for the Diocese of Aba in Nigeria

m 1999 to 2001.

fled the country after he was reported to civil authorities.

88°



92°



92°

*Search Site*



Assignments: immediate past of Holy Trinity Church, Harlingen; Pastor of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle-National Shrine, San Juan

Benedicto Ortiz

(deceased)

Born: September 1, 1930

Ordained: April 13, 1957 for the Diocese of Areciba in Puerto Rico

Incardinated to the Diocese of Brownsville: June 1, 1974

Died: May 14, 2011

Credible abuse report received in 2016.

Assignments: Good Shepherd Church, Brownsville; Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Brownsville; St. Anthony Church, Harlingen; Our Lady of Sorrows Church, McAllen; St. Anne, Mother of Mary Church, Pharr; Knapp Memorial Methodist Hospital, Weslaco; and HCA Rio Grande Regional Hospital, McAllen

Salvador Rangel, MSF

(deceased)

Born: August 6, 1947

Ordained: September 1, 1973

Died: May 18, 2002

Removed from ministry in 1977, returned to his religious community

Assignments: St. Joseph Church, Donna; Our Lady of Assumption Church, Harlingen; Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen

Ivan M. Rovira

Born: March 26, 1945

Ordained: May 30, 1971 for the Diocese of Rockford

Incardinated to Diocese of Brownsville: June 6, 1977

Faculties removed in 2002.

Assignments: Holy Family Church, Brownsville; St. Mary, Mother of the Church, Brownsville; Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Brownsville; St. Joseph Church, Edinburg; Our Lady of Sorrows Church, McAllen; St. Joseph & St. Peter Seminary, Mission; St. Pius X Church, Weslaco

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Ordained: June 26, 1976

Died: Date unknown

Removed from ministry in the Diocese of Brownsville 1986. Allegation fully disclosed to receiving bishop in Ciudad Victoria.

Assignments: Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Brownsville; St. Joseph Church, Edinburg; Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, Mission; San Martin de Porres Church, Weslaco

Marti G. Zuber

Born: May 11, 1950

Ordained: June 26, 1976

Removed from ministry in 1993. Laicization in process.

Assignments: St. Joseph Church, Edinburg; Campus Ministry, Edinburg; St. Anthony Church, Harlingen; St. Joseph Church the Worker, McAllen; Holy Spirit Church, McAllen; Immaculate Conception Church, McCook; Holy Spirit Church, Progreso; St. Anthony Church, Raymondville; San Martin de Porres Church, Weslaco;

## List of Clergy with Credible Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor after the Year 2002:

Ronaldo Mitchell Chavez

Born: August 13, 1973

Ordained to permanent diaconate: December 18, 2010

He was removed from active ministry in 2012. Pled guilty and sentenced to seven years in prison.

Assignments: San Cristobal Magallanes & Companions Church, Mission

The Diocese went on to say,

“ A team of eight lay persons (seven women and one male) who hold positions of trust in the public and private sector, reviewed files of all bishops, priests, and deacons dating back to 1965 when the Diocese of Brownsville was founded. They, along with the assistance of the Chancellor and

reviewed each file to identify any credible allegations of clergy sexual  
 our archives has been reviewed.

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