Disclosures regarding clergy sexual abuse of minors

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https://www.crookston.org/offices/victims

In the interest of accountability, the Diocese of Crookston maintains a list of names of individuals against whom there is a credible claim of abusing a minor as defined under Minn. Stat. § 626.556 subd. 2(d), or in the possession of child pornography. The list is divided according to whether the alleged abuse took place within our diocese or outside of the diocese. A credible claim is one for which sufficient evidence exists to establish reasonable grounds to believe that the alleged abuse occurred.

INDIVIDUALS WITH CREDIBLE CLAIMS AGAINST THEM OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON

Bester, Robert - Died in 2019.

Date of Birth: September 30, 1930
Date of Ordination: June 1, 1979
Assignment History
Asst. Pastor: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Crookston 1979-80
Headmaster: Mount Saint Benedict, Crookston 1980-1982
Pastor: St. Francis of Assisi, Fisher 1980-82
Pastor: St. Rose of Lima, Argyle; St. John the Baptist, Alma 1982-86
Administrator: St. John the Baptist, Alma 1986-87
Pastor: Blessed Sacrament, Greenbush; St. Aloysius, Leo 1987-1990
Pastor: St. Joseph, Middle River; St. Edward, Strandquist; St. Joseph, Benwood 1990-91
Leave of Absence: 1991-94
Chaplain: St. Mary’s Medical Center, Duluth 1995-99
Retired: July 1, 1999
Laicized: December 15, 2006
Current Status: Deceased January 2, 2019

Date of Birth: July 7, 1926  
Date of Ordination: June 7, 1952  
Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:  
Asst. Pastor: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Crookston 1952-1955  
Pastor: St. Bernard, Thief River Falls; St. Ann, Goodridge; St. Clement, Grygla; St. Joseph, Middle River 1955-58  
Pastor: St. Philip, Bemidji 1958-60  
Pastor: St. Mary, Badger; St. Joseph, Benwood 1960-63  
Pastor: St. Joseph, Oslo 1963-71  
Pastor: St. Bernard, Thief River Falls; St. Ann, Goodridge; St. Clement, Grygla 1971-81  
Administrator: St. Joseph, Oslo 1983  
Pastor: St. Joseph, Oslo 1984-87  
Pastor: St. John, Akeley; St. Theodore, LaPorte; Our Lady of the Pines, Nevis 1987-91  
Retired: 1991  
Current Status: Deceased June 19, 2016


Date of Birth: April 13, 1929  
Date of Ordination: June 4, 1955  
Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:  
Asst. Pastor: St. Anne, Crookston 1957-1961  
Pastor: St. Mary, Fosston, St. Lawrence, Mentor 1969-1977  
Retired: July 1, 1999  
Current Status: Deceased August 11, 2004
Boyd, Richard

**Date of Birth:** October 24, 1950  
**Date of Ordination:** June 1, 1979  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
- Chancellor: Diocese of Crookston Chancery 1980-82  
- Administrator: St. Joseph, Middle River; St. Joseph, Benwood; Assumption, Florian 1980-82  
- Vice Chancellor: Diocese of Crookston Chancery 1982  
- Asst. Pastor: St. Philip, Bemidji 1985-87  
- Pastor: St. Joseph, Middle River; St. Joseph, Benwood; Assumption, Florian 1987-90  
- Pastor: St. Peter, Park Rapids 1990-2001  
- Canonical Pastor: St. Mary, Two Inlets 1994-95  
- Canonical Pastor: Lake Itasca 1997-2001  
- Pastor: St. Mary, Fosston; St. Joseph, Bagley 2001-2003  

**Removed from ministry:** 2003  
**Laicized:** 2006  
**Current status:** Unknown


**Date of Birth:** January 17, 1900  
**Date of Ordination:** March 20, 1926  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
- Asst. Pastor: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Crookston 1930-1935  
- Pastor: St. Dorothy, Dorothy  
- Pastor: St. Joseph, Red Lake Falls 1942-1952  
- Chancellor: Diocese of Crookston 1952-1960  
- Pastor: St. Peter, Gentilly 1960-1983  

**Retired:** 1983  
**Current Status:** Deceased November 10, 1992

**Date of Birth:** May 9, 1920  
**Date of Ordination:** June 16, 1946  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
Asst. Pastor: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Crookston 1946  
Administrator: St. Lawrence, Guthrie, St. Theodore, Laporte 1952-1955  
Chaplain: St. Joseph Hospital, Park Rapids 1952-1955  
Pastor: St. Vincent de Paul, Plummer 1965-1969  
Pastor: St. Anthony, Terrebonne 1969-1972  
Pastor: St. Rose of Lima, Argyle 1972-1982  
Pastor: Sacred Heart, Roseau, St. Mary, Badger 1982-1990  
**Retired:** July 2, 1990  
**Date removed from ministry:** June 19, 2002  
**Current Status:** Deceased November 3, 2003


**Date of Birth:** September 21, 1918  
**Date of Ordination:** June 7, 1952  
**Diocese or religious order:** Saginaw, MI  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
Parochial Vicar: Sacred Heart, E. Grand Forks 1952  
Parochial Vicar: St. Rose of Lima, Argyle 1952-53  
**Current Status:** Deceased November 15, 1979
Foley, Gerald

**Date of Birth:** January 15, 1932  
**Date of Ordination:** June 3, 1961  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
Director: Catholic Social Services Association, Red Lake Falls 1963-77  
Administrator: St. Dorothy, Dorothy 1963-75  
Substitute Ordinary Confessor: Benedictine Convent, Red Lake Falls 1963  
Pastor: St. Anne’s, Crookston 1975-77  
Pastor: St. Joseph, Ada 1977  
Pastor: St. Francis de Sales, Moorhead 1979-83  
Pastor: St. Cecilia, Sabin 1979-83  
**Faculties Removed:** 2005  
**Laicization:** 2006  
**Current Status:** Residing in Minneapolis, MN

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**Date of Birth:** December 8, 1919  
**Date of Ordination:** May 27, 1950  
**Diocese or religious order:** Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
Pastor: St. Anne, Naytahwaush, St. Frances Cabrini, Big Elbow Lake, St. Benedict, White Earth 1983-1986  
**Current Status:** Deceased September 27, 2009

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Jeyapaul, Joseph

**Date of Birth:** January 20, 1955  
**Date of Ordination:** May 19, 1982  
**Diocese or religious order:** Diocese of Ootacamund, India  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
Priest in residence: St. Bernard, Thief River Falls 2004  
Administrator: Blessed Sacrament, Greenbush, St. Joseph, Middle River, St. Edward, Karlstad 2004-2005  
**Date removed from ministry:** September 15, 2005  
**Current Location:** Diocese of Ootacamund, India  
**Current Status:** unknown

**Date of Birth:** December 3, 1910  
**Date of Ordination:** June 6, 1938  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
Parochial Vicar: Holy Rosary, Detroit Lakes 1946  
Pastor: St. Anne, Naytahwaush; St. Theresa, Island Lake; St. Francis Cabrini, Big Elbow Lake 1950-51  
**Current Status:** Died November 10, 1988


**Date of Birth:** January 2, 1935  
**Date of Ordination:** April 2, 1960  
**Diocese or religious order:** Diocese of Fall River, MA  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
Asst. Pastor: St. Philip, Bemidji 1969-70  
**Current Status:** Deceased February 11, 2005


**Date of Birth:** June 10, 1922  
**Date of Ordination:** May 23, 1964  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
Asst. Pastor: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Crookston 1964-1965  
Asst. Pastor: St. Philip’s, Bemidji 1965-1966  
Asst. Pastor: St. Bernard’s, Thief River Falls 1968-1971  
Administrator: St. Ann, Waubun 1971  
Pastor: St. John’s, Akeley, Immaculate Conception, Nevis, St. Theodore, Ponsford 1971-1977  
Pastor: St. Peter the Apostle, Park Rapids 1980-1990  
Pastor: St. Mary, Two Inlets, St. Theodore, Ponsford, St. Catherine, Lake Itasca 1990-1992  
**Retired:** July 1, 1992  
**Date removed from ministry:** July 1, 1992  
**Current Status:** Deceased April 15, 2007
Rellihan, James

Date of Birth: December 13, 1939  
Date of Ordination: December 18, 1965  
Diocese or religious order: Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:  
Parochial Vicar: St. Benedict, White Earth; St. Anne, Naytahwaush; St. Francis Cabrini, Big Elbow Lake 1986-92  
Current Status: Unknown

Simon, Aloysius

Date of Birth: July 13, 1925  
Date of Ordination: May 29, 1950  
Diocese or religious order: Diocese of Bismarck, ND  
Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:  
Parochial Vicar: St. John's, Akeley; Immaculate Conception, Nevis; St. Theodore's, Laporte 1977-78  
Current Status: Unknown
INDIVIDUALS WITH CREDIBLE CLAIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR OUTSIDE OF THE DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON

For each individual in this category, the determination that a claim was credible was made by an entity other than the Diocese of Crookston, such as another diocese or a religious order. Some of these individuals held temporary assignments in this diocese. In other cases, they may have traveled here or resided here for a period of time.

Dummer, Donald

**Date of Birth:** October 23, 1937  
**Date of Ordination:** December 19, 1964  
**Diocese or religious order:** Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
Pastor: St. Ann, Blackduck; St. Charles, Pennington; St. Patrick, Kelliher; St. Joseph, Shooks 1988-93  
Pastor: Assumption, Callaway; St. Catherine, Lake Itasca 1993-96  
Pastor: St. Mary of the Lakes, Detroit Lakes 1993-94  
**Permanently Removed from Ministry:** 2006  
**Current Status:** Unknown

Gormly, Charles – Died in 1968.

**Diocese or religious order:** Diocese of Cheyenne, WY  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
Parochial Vicar: St. Peter's, Park Rapids 1956  
**Current Status:** Deceased 1968


**Date of Birth:** July 15, 1914  
**Date of Ordination:** 1942  
**Diocese or religious order:** Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
Supply Ministry: Clergy Retreat House, Nevis 1968  
**Current Status:** Deceased 1969

Date of Birth: January 28, 1900  
Date of Ordination: June 7, 1931  
Diocese or religious order: Order of St. Benedict  
Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:  
Parochial Vicar: St. Michael, Mahnomen 1958-59  
Pastor: Holy Rosary, Detroit Lakes 1959-60  
Current Status: Died January 4, 1980


Date of Birth: January 16, 1932  
Date of Ordination: September 8, 1958  
Diocese or religious order: Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:  
Pastor: Sacred Heart, Wilton 1972-76  
Chaplain: Holy Spirit Newman Center, Bemidji 1972-76  
Current Status: Died 1999

Murawski, Stephen

Diocese or religious order: Diocese of Pueblo, CO.

Odor, Luke

Year of Ordination: 1980  
Diocese or religious order: Diocese of Aba, Nigeria  
Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:  
Associate Pastor: Assumption, Florian; St. John the Baptist, Alma; 1995  
Associate Pastor: St. Rose of Lima, Argyle 1995  
Associate Pastor: Sacred Heart, E. Grand Forks 1996  
Current Status: Unknown

O’Reilly, Michael

No other known information.

**Date of Birth:** March 7, 1921  
**Date of Ordination:** June 15, 1947  
**Assignments in the Diocese of Crookston:**  
Parochial Vicar: St. Anne, Naytahwaush; St. Francis Cabrini, Big Elbow Lake; St. Theresa, Island Lake 1951-56  
Pastor: Assumption, Callaway 1957-59  
**Current Status:** Left the priesthood in 1962. Died in 2015

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

For each individual in this category, internal and/or independent investigation has not been able to substantiate that a claim made was credible. Some of these individuals have been named in lawsuits.

- Msgr. Roger Grundhaus
- Fr. Joseph Richards
- Fr. Pat Sullivan

Voice from the Valley

**VFTV: August 21, 2019**

Wednesday, 21 August 2019

On Wednesday, July 17, we announced that a settlement had been reached between claimants represented by Jeff Anderson & Associates and the Diocese of Crookston. The economic facts of the settlement have been reported. As part of the settlement, the diocese agreed to a number of non-economic protocols as well. The diocese agreed to make available for public release the names of all clergy who have worked in the Diocese of Crookston at any time who have been credibly accused of child sexual abuse or possession of child pornography. The diocese also agreed to make available for review and publication by plaintiff’s counsel all documents on Fathers Roger Grundhaus, Patrick Sullivan and Joseph Richards. I want to say something to you about each of these three.

Father Joseph Richards: Father Richards was ordained in 1990. Three years after ordination, Father Richards asked to receive help to deal with unresolved issues in his life
that stemmed from his childhood. Father Richards shared with Bishop Balke that he had been sexually abused as a child. He additionally disclosed that when a minor, 14 years old, on one occasion he also abused another child. His request for help was granted and for nine months he received treatment at St. Michael’s Center in St. Louis. After his successful completion and discharge from treatment, and having benefitted from the help he received, Father Richards was returned to priestly ministry and has served admirably now and without incident for a total of 29 years. No accusation of sexual abuse has ever been made against Father Richards. These facts were presented to the Diocesan Review Board whose membership includes people with experience in law enforcement and child protection. The Board recommended that Father Richards continue in priestly ministry. According to the settlement, Father Richards’ name will NOT be included on the list of priests credibly accused but his name will be listed as a priest accused because of his own admission in 1993.

Father Patrick Sullivan: Father Sullivan served at St. Mary’s Mission at Red Lake from 1997-2009. In 2016, the Diocese of Crookston was sued by a man who accused Father Sullivan of abusing him when the man was a minor. Father Sullivan denies this accusation. After review of the testimony in this case, the allegation was deemed “not credible” by the Diocesan Review Board. The Diocese of Crookston has not received any other accusation of minor sexual abuse against Father Sullivan. According to the settlement, Father Sullivan’s name will NOT be included on the list of priests credibly accused. His name will be listed as a priest accused as a result of having been named in a lawsuit.

Msgr. Roger Grundhaus: In 2017, the Diocese of Crookston was served with a lawsuit in which the claimant asserted that Msgr. Grundhaus sexually abused him at a Canon Law Convention in Columbus, Ohio, in 1971, when the claimant was a minor. Msgr. Grundhaus denies this allegation. At my direction, testimony and evidence was gathered by an independent investigator from outside the diocese. The investigator found that, in fact, there was no Canon Law Convention in Columbus in 1971. This fact and all the testimony gathered in the case, along with the investigator’s report and recommendations, was thereafter presented to the Diocesan Review Board. The Review Board has recommended that Msgr. Grundhaus be reinstated to priestly ministry. No other accusation against Msgr. Grundhaus of sexual abuse of a minor has ever been received by the Diocese of Crookston. According to the terms of the settlement, Msgr. Grundhaus’ name will NOT be included on the list of priests credibly accused. His name will be listed as a priest accused as a result of having been named in a lawsuit.

And so, to reiterate: According to the non-economic protocols negotiated as part of the settlement of these cases, Father Richards’ name will not be included on our list of priests credibly accused but his name will be listed as a priest accused, not because someone accused him of sexual abuse during his priesthood, but because of his own admission in 1993. The Diocesan Review Board has determined that the accusations made against Father Sullivan and Msgr. Grundhaus are not credible. Therefore, the names of Father Sullivan and Msgr. Grundhaus likewise are not included on the list of priests credibly accused of child sexual abuse of a minor or possession of child pornography but will be listed as priests accused.

August 4 is traditionally the feast of the patron of parish priests, the Cure of Ars, St. John Marie Vianney. This August 4, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, wrote a letter to all the priests
of the world. He wanted to thank them for leaving all behind to immerse themselves in the
daily life of their parish communities and for expending themselves to care for and
accompany God’s people. He said: “Without denying or dismissing the harm caused by
some of our brothers, it would be unfair not to express our gratitude to all those priests who
faithfully and generously spend their lives in the service of others.” Knowing that priests are
human, imperfect and sinners too, let us remember to express our gratitude for all our great
priests and to encourage them in their ministry as they accompany us on our road of
conversion and, day in and day out, feed us with the richness of the Gospel message, the
grace-life of the sacraments.