



Diocese of Davenport

WALKING TOGETHER IN FAITH

*News*

*For Immediate Release*

## **News Conference Schedule**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2004, 11 a.m.**

Diocese of Davenport  
2706 North Gaines Street  
Davenport, Iowa

1. **Welcome and Introduction** - Deacon David Montgomery, Diocesan Spokesperson
  - Media packets available at 10:30am at the Diocese of Davenport.
  - All materials in the packets will be available on the home page of the diocesan website: [www.davenportdiocese.org](http://www.davenportdiocese.org) following the news conference.
2. **Statement from Most Rev. William E. Franklin, Bishop of Davenport**
3. **Statement from Ms. Chris McCormick Pries, Diocesan Review Board**
4. **Introduction of members of the panel for questions**– Dc. David Montgomery (please note – the panel will respond to questions instead of holding individual interviews)
  - Bishop Franklin
  - Ms. Chris McCormick Pries, Diocesan Review Board
  - Mr. Rand Wonio – Lane & Waterman
  - Msgr. James Parizek – Promoter of Justice, Diocesan Review Board
  - Ms. Irene Prior Loftus, Chancellor
5. **Closing** – Deacon Montgomery

February 25, 2004

To the People of the Diocese of Davenport:

The Catholic Church is in the midst of a crisis that must be dealt with compassionately, fairly and honorably. The Davenport Diocese is attempting to do so; and, in this report, I will attempt to apprise you of our efforts in this regard. This is a painful and difficult communication but one that must occur in the interest of transparency and openness. Today's situation across the country is sad and sorrowful. My presentation is incomplete because I cannot speak for the victims as I do not have personal knowledge of each allegation and as each individual has separate wounds and pain.

Imperfect though it may be, I will speak to the victims. I am sorry for any pain, agony and suffering caused by any action of any priest you trusted and wanted to trust. Whatever happened should never have happened. It was not your fault. I also humbly apologize for any shortcomings and misunderstandings that may have occurred when some of you came forward to report abuse. I ask God to give all of us the compassion, the wisdom and the energy to live and to treat all as his beloved children.

I hope this information presented will be a sign of our effort in the Diocese to provide help in ongoing recovery. I also hope that the actions we are taking will be a sign of our commitment to the policy that no priest or deacon of the Diocese of Davenport will remain in public ministry if there is reasonable cause to believe that the priest or deacon abused a minor at any time.

Under the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People approved by the United States Bishops in 2002, the penalty for a finding of sexual abuse is permanent removal from ministry. Only Rome has the authority to laicize or to defrock a priest. Information is being presented to the Vatican for their judgment in making the final decision.

The Diocesan Review Board has recommended that I request the Vatican to laicize (defrock) five priests. They are: James Janssen, Francis Bass, Frank Martinez, William Wiebler and Richard Poster. I have accepted these recommendations, and the requests are being sent to the Vatican.

Part of this report is history, but it is more than history, it is also about people and resources and programs that provide special ongoing help. I fervently hope that programs such as *Protecting God's Children* will help us protect our children now and in the future. Protecting God's Children is the call for all who teach and minister in the Church--the priests, religious, teachers, volunteers in the classroom, religious education and social activities.

The Diocese has reviewed the records of clergy serving the Diocese for the past 50 years, well over 600 in number. From this review, information concerning the numbers of abuse allegations and clergy involved was obtained. This information will be presented in a Report being issued today.

### **What Our Diocese Has Done and Will Continue to Do:**

The Diocese of Davenport will continue to comply with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

• **Zero-Tolerance:** No Diocesan priest or deacon can remain in public ministry if there is reasonable cause to believe the priest or deacon sexually abused a minor at any time. No priest or deacon reasonably believed to have sexually abused a minor will be transferred for ministerial assignment into, out of or within the Diocese.

• **Prevention:** All priests and deacons, all candidates for ordination, every staff member and those volunteers who have regular contact with children are required to complete the *Protecting God's Children* training program. So far, over 4,000 people in the Diocese have received training. Those working on a regular basis with children are required to have a criminal background check by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation. Over 2,000 checks have been done so far. Diocesan policy has been revised and updated with new protocols for all clergy, staff and volunteers to follow when they are with minors. There is prevention in awareness.

• **Investigations:** All allegations of child sexual abuse are investigated. The Diocese has retained James M. Sweeney of James M. Sweeney & Associates, Inc. as an outside investigator. All allegations involving a minor and within the criminal statute of limitations are immediately referred to the local law enforcement agency. Of course, the victim is always free to report directly to law enforcement.

• **Public Outreach:** I have gone to parishes and met with victims. I will continue to do so. I welcome visits by victims. The Diocese has and will continue to furnish counseling and spiritual direction to those in need. I have published the policies followed by the Diocese through the diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Messenger*; through the Diocesan website, [www.davenportdiocese.org](http://www.davenportdiocese.org); and through media releases broadcast throughout the Diocese to encourage any victim of sexual abuse by a Catholic cleric to come forward for assistance. I have put copies of my policies in every parish and have invited all adults to attend the *Protecting God's Children* program.

• **Victim Assistance Coordinator:** In 2002, I appointed Irene Prior Loftus, Chancellor, to be the first point of contact for victims to report abuse and seek assistance. In order to enhance our resources in this area and to shift this responsibility to an independent resource, the Diocese is now using the services of Thomas Crowley, the new Victim Assistance Coordinator. Victims are asked to call Tom Crowley any time at 563-349-5002 or contact him by e-mail: [vacdav@attglobal.net](mailto:vacdav@attglobal.net) or mail at P. O. Box 232, Bettendorf, IA 52722-0004.

• **Diocesan Review Board:** The Diocesan Review Board reviews the investigation results of sexual abuse allegations. The Board makes recommendations to me on appropriate action and the suitability of individuals for continuation in ministry and reviews related diocesan policies.

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• **Pending Litigation and Claims:** I would like to personally meet with anyone who has been injured by a priest in our diocese. The Diocese of Davenport, with the assistance of its insurers, will also strive to resolve pending litigation and claims fairly and honorably. The Diocese is willing to enter into non-binding mediation for those interested in attempting to privately resolve claims free from time-consuming and expensive litigation.

**What Our Diocese Will Do Next:**

I am committed to working with the faithful to facilitate parish meetings and to establish support groups where appropriate. I have already contacted professionals to assist me in these tasks.

With the priests of the Diocese, I will devote this year's Spring Priest Convocation in March to presentations by abuse victims and health care professionals regarding the issue. In connection with this convocation, we anticipate a Mass for Healing.

I apologize for any harm resulting from sexual abuse by clergy. As Bishop of the Diocese of Davenport, together with our clergy, I truly pray for the victims and families who have been so sadly hurt. I pray for the much-needed healing in our Church and work toward that end. Ultimately, it is by working together, in union with God's grace that we will be able to move forward in the years to come.

May God's grace and strength be with all victims. May that same strength be with their families. I'm sorry for any suffering you experienced and continue to experience because of betrayed trust. If you wish to visit, a phone call or letter to Tom Crowley or to me can help set a time and place.

May what we do now, in union with God's help, protect all of our children now and in the years to come.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) William E. Franklin,  
Bishop of Davenport

# **A Historical Accounting of Clergy Sexual Abuse of Minors and Action Taken Regarding Certain Priests**

**A Report by**

**Most Rev. Wm. E. Franklin  
Bishop of Davenport**

## **INTRODUCTION**

We have recently completed an investigation of allegations of sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons. The records of over 600 clergy serving in the Diocese for the past 50 years (1950 to date) have been reviewed. From this review, information concerning the numbers of abuse allegations and clergy involved was obtained. This information will be presented in this Report. In addition, the Diocesan Review Board has considered several cases and has made recommendations to me regarding certain priests.

Under the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People approved by the bishops in 2002, the penalty for a finding of sexual abuse is permanent removal from ministry. Only Rome has the authority to laicize or to defrock a priest. The Review Board has recommended that I request the Vatican to laicize (defrock) five priests. They are: James Janssen, Francis Bass, Frank Martinez, William Wiebler and Richard Poster. I have accepted these recommendations, and the requests are being sent to the Vatican.

## **HISTORICAL ACCOUNTING**

The Diocese has used a variety of information sources to attempt to determine the total number of sexual abuse allegations against clergy for the past 50 years (1950 to date). Those sources include a review of Diocesan records of priests and deacons who have served the Diocese. Also reviewed were allegations made in lawsuits and reports by individuals who have come forward with information.

### **Results of the Investigation**

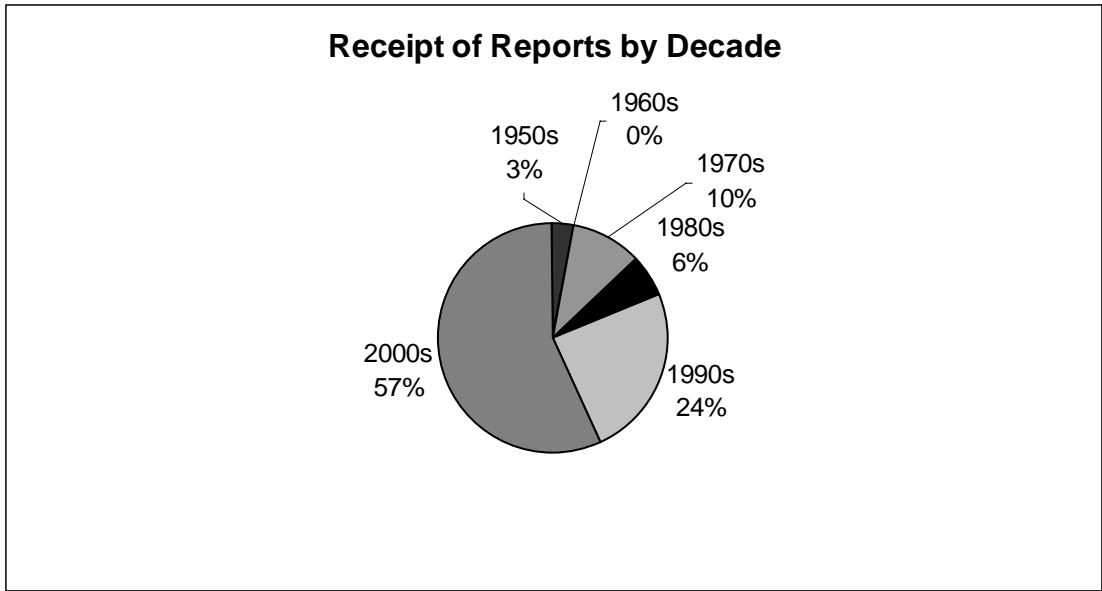
Based on this information, 65\* individuals have made allegations of sexual abuse against priests serving in this diocese. Twenty priests and two members of a lay group have been accused. Three priests account for 39\* of the charges.

By far, most of the allegations refer to abuse in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Of those old incidents over half were reported since 2001. It is impossible to be exact in computing data because of the presence in several reports of an unspecified number of "Others." Nevertheless, based upon the best information available, we present the following data.

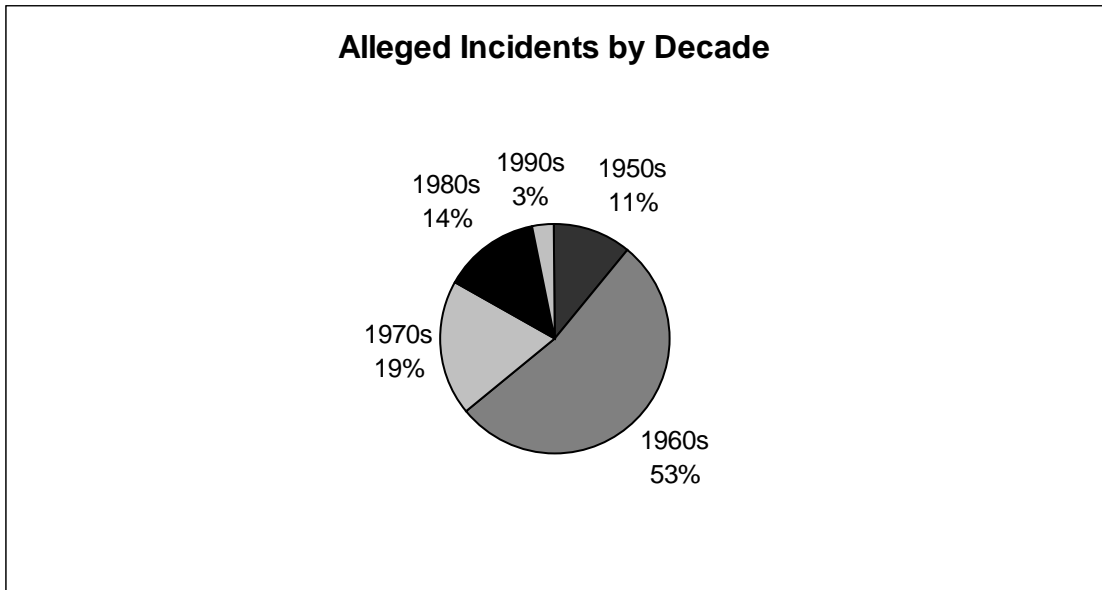
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\* These numbers cannot be exact because reports have mentioned that an unspecified number of "Others" were also abused. These other people may or may not have individually reported abuse.

The Diocese received these allegations of past abuse during the following time-periods: 57% were received since 2000, 24% in the 1990s, 6% in the 1980s, 10% in the 1970s, none in the 1960s, and 3% in the 1950s.



The occurrence of alleged abuse by decade is as follows: about 11% of the incidents were alleged to have occurred in the 1950s, 53% in the 1960s, 19% in the 1970s, 14% in the 1980s and 3% in the 1990s.



This accounting is based on our review of historical information up to 50 years old and older. We have done our best to make a full and fair accounting based on the information available to us today. It should be stated that it is impossible to confirm or refute many of the allegations due to the death of clergy and the unavailability of witnesses.

The Review Board recommendations concerning Fr. James Janssen, Fr. William Wiebler, Fr. Francis Bass, Fr. Frank Martinez and Fr. Richard Poster are discussed below.

The Diocese is also investigating allegations against other priests who are defendants in current litigation: Theodore Geerts (who left the Diocese without permission in 1969 and is living in a California nursing home), Msgr. Drake Shafer (who is on leave of absence), Fr. Louis Telegdy (a deceased order priest from the Society of Precious Blood) and Fr. Martin Diamond (also deceased).

The Review Board has considered the following allegations:

- a. The Review Board has determined that no further action is warranted at this time regarding a report that a currently retired priest allegedly abused two minors over 40 years ago. The Review Board considered information from the persons making the report and from the accused priest. The Board noted that victim outreach had taken place and recommended no further action.
- b. One allegation was made in the early 1990s about abuse that allegedly occurred in the early 1960s. The accused priest died in the same year the allegation was made.
- c. Allegations of abuse in the early to mid-1960s by a priest formerly of this Diocese have been referred to the proper canonical jurisdiction outside the Diocese. The Diocese of Davenport has no jurisdiction over this retired priest.
- d. In 2002, allegations of abuse were made against three Benedictine priests who served in the Diocese in the early to mid-1960s. One of the priests was deceased at the time the allegations were made. The Diocese reported the allegations to the Benedictines in another state. The location of the second priest is unknown, and the third priest was removed from ministry.
- e. In 1998, the Diocese received an allegation that a child had been abused in the 1960s by a priest serving in the Diocese. The priest had been deceased for many years when the report was made. The Diocese offered professional counseling.
- f. The Diocese received a report about the Franciscan Brothers of Christ the King, a group of lay people, not clergy, serving in the Diocese. The report alleged that a 17-year-old member of the group had been abused by two other members in the 1970s. The Diocese reported this to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis where the group was based, and the group was ultimately disbanded.
- g. In 1989, Fr. James Leu was arrested for the sexual abuse of minors while he was assigned to St. Mary Church in Lone Tree, Iowa. Fr. Leu pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years of incarceration in a state penal institution. He has been permitted no public ministry, is restricted to saying private Mass only and to live a life of prayer and penance. He has had no assignment in the Diocese since his release from prison. The Diocesan Review Board has recently reviewed his case and recommended that this status be maintained. This case is also being sent to Rome with that recommendation.
- h. Diocesan investigator Jim Sweeney has been assigned to investigate allegations against two priests for incidents that occurred in the 1990s. Neither priest is in active ministry.
- i. In 2002, allegations of sexual abuse were made in the newspaper of a foreign country where a priest of this Diocese had been serving. These allegations are believed to have been politically motivated and are considered to be unfounded. The priest is deceased.

- j. In 2003, the Diocese received an anonymous report that a deceased priest and that person's parents had abused the person on a date unidentified. Upon learning that the priest was deceased, the person terminated this telephone communication.

None of the priests against whom allegations have been substantiated are in public ministry today. They are not permitted to have any ministerial or priestly contact with children.

### **Finances**

Through this entire period, two lawsuits were settled. One of the lawsuits was settled for \$22,500. The other lawsuit involved two separate people who were bringing claims. Those claims were settled for \$175,000 each. All of the claims were paid by insurers.

Since 2003, the Diocese has spent over \$50,000 for programs directly involving child safety.

### **ACTION REGARDING CERTAIN PRIESTS**

#### **James Janssen**

The case of James Janssen included an investigation of records dating back over 50 years. The procedure for dealing with sexual abuse allegations against priests has dramatically changed over the years in response to the increased level of awareness of the harm caused by the misconduct. In the 1950s and 1960s, sexual misconduct was perceived as a spiritual matter, a sin to be confessed with a penance to be performed. There was a general lack of understanding of pedophilia among professionals during that period. The causes, treatment and impact upon victims were little understood. Some priests were required to obtain psychological treatment or counseling, and dioceses were given recommendations by mental health professionals that the problem had been satisfactorily addressed and that priests could safely be returned to ministry. Regrettably, this procedure was followed in the 1950s and 1960s with Fr. Janssen.

Diocesan records show that, in November 1956, Fr. Janssen was suspended by Bishop Ralph Hayes and placed on indefinite leave from his appointment as assistant pastor at Sacred Heart in Newton as a result of apparent sexual misconduct. During his suspension, he enrolled as a student at Loyola University and also received psychotherapy. In August 1957, a Loyola University doctor wrote to Bishop Hayes and advised him that Fr. Janssen "can become a very understanding and acceptable pastor...not likely to fall into past errors." Bishop Hayes assigned Fr. Janssen as a substitute pastor at St. Michael Church, Holbrook, effective June 6, 1958. In September 1958, Bishop Hayes received a report from the pastor at a church near Loyola University that Fr. Janssen had been involved in sexual misconduct. Bishop Hayes again suspended Fr. Janssen, who went to the Abbey of Our Lady of New Melleray. In January 1959, the Abbot reported favorably to an inquiry by Bishop Hayes as to whether Fr. Janssen had made sufficient progress to warrant recalling him to the Diocese. Bishop Hayes then appointed Fr. Janssen temporary administrator of St. Patrick Church, Delmar, and in June 1959, as assistant at St. Mary Church, Davenport.

Diocesan records do not include specific reports of sexual misconduct at St. Mary Church, but there are complaints from parents of inappropriate behavior by Fr. Janssen with boys. Fr. Janssen was assigned as assistant at St. Joseph Church, Ft. Madison, from 1961 to 1967 and as pastor at St. Joseph Church, Browns (Sugar Creek), from 1967 to 1979. After a brief tenure as co-pastor at St. Mary Church Davenport, Fr. Janssen was assigned as pastor of SS. Philip & James Church, Grand Mound, from 1980-1990.



From 1961 until 1988, Diocesan records show that no allegations of sexual abuse were made against Fr. Janssen. After allegations were made in 1988, an investigation by the Diocese uncovered credible allegations of sexual misconduct by Fr. Janssen while he was at Ft. Madison, Sugar Creek and Grand Mound. He was placed on indefinite leave of absence by Bishop Gerald O'Keefe on August 15, 1990 and was retired from active ministry effective November 5, 1991.

After additional allegations of past sexual abuse were made, Fr. Janssen was ordered by me on April 1, 1996 to cease any public activity of a Church nature, including assistance he was providing at a hospital. All active priests in the Diocese were informed that Fr. Janssen was not available for any duties.

On August 30, 2000, I issued a *Precept*, the strongest canonical action possible at that time, which bound Fr. Janssen with specific obligations: 1) To refrain from all contact with minors (under age 18); 2) To cease work in places of employment where contact with minors is likely to occur; 3) To further avoid all places and situations that, from past experience, have been occasions of serious temptation in the areas of sexual morality.

From the perspective of today, it was clearly a mistake for Fr. Janssen to have been reassigned to any public ministry after his 1956 suspension. The Diocese of Davenport apologizes for these mistakes. I have accepted the recommendation of the Review Board that I request the Vatican to laicize Fr. James Janssen.

#### Francis Bass

Diocesan records show that a report was received dated June 29, 1992 that Fr. Bass had sexually abused a minor in 1964. Fr. Bass retired in October 1992. In 1998, the Diocese received a report that Fr. Bass had abused another minor in the 1960s. Additional credible allegations of abuse against Fr. Bass have recently been received by the Diocese. I have accepted the recommendation of the Review Board that I request the Vatican to laicize Fr. Francis Bass.

#### Frank Martinez

Diocesan records show that in 1986 Fr. Martinez appeared to initiate sexual activity with a minor who fled from him and sought help. The minor and his parents sued Fr. Martinez and the Diocese. The case was settled out-of-court. I have accepted the recommendation of the Review Board that I request the Vatican to laicize Fr. Frank Martinez.

#### William Wiebler

The Diocese has received allegations of sexual abuse against Fr. Wiebler for incidents that date back to the 1970s and 1980s. Fr. Wiebler has admitted acts of abuse with several minors. Fr. Wiebler's last position in the Diocese was in 1985. He then took a leave of absence to become editor of Sacred Heart League publications in Mississippi. He retired in 1991. In 2002, Fr. Wiebler was admitted for residential treatment at a facility in Missouri. On October 9, 2002, I issued a *Precept*, the strongest canonical action possible at that time, which bound Fr. Wiebler with specific obligations: 1) To continue treatment and to comply to the fullest extent with all those involved in his treatment program; 2) To refrain from all contact with minors (under age 18); 3) To continue cessation of volunteer work or employment in any place where contact with minors may occur; 4) To further avoid all places and situations that, from past experience, have been occasions of serious temptation in the areas of sexual morality. He remains at the treatment facility. I have accepted the recommendation of the Review Board that I request the Vatican to laicize Fr. William Wiebler.

Richard Poster

On December 17, 2002, computer files containing child pornography were discovered on a diocesan computer, which had been in Fr. Poster's possession. The Diocese immediately reported this matter to the authorities, and Fr. Poster was charged with and pleaded guilty to a federal count of possession of child pornography. He has recently been sentenced to imprisonment. I have accepted the recommendation of the Review Board that I request the Vatican to laicize Father Richard Poster.

**A SACRED TRUST VIOLATED**

May God's Grace and strength be with all who are victims. May that same strength be with their families. I'm sorry for any suffering you had and continue to have because of betrayed trust. If you wish to visit, a phone call or letter to Tom Crowley or to me can help set a time and place.

May what we do now, in union with God's help, protect all of our children now and in the years to come.

## Priest Assignments

**Francis E. Bass**, 81, of Davenport; ordained June 6, 1948

Assignments:

7/8/48 - 6/20/57	Clinton: St. Mary	Assistant
6/20/57 - 7/1/66	Davenport: St. Joseph	Assistant
7/1/66 - 9/7/67	Eddyville: St. Mary and Ottumwa Heights Convent	Pastor Chaplain
9/7/67 - 7/14/73	East Pleasant Plain: St. Joseph	Pastor
7/14/73 - 1/31/78	Newton: Sacred Heart	Pastor
1/31/78 - 8/18/81	Iowa City: St. Patrick	Pastor
8/18/81 - 10/27/92	Delmar: St. Patrick	Pastor
10/16/84 - 10/27/92	Welton: St. Anne	Pastor
10/27/1992	Retirement	

OfficesHeld:

10/2/58 - 8/20/73	Director of Vocations Personnel Board
12/15/76 - 1/31/78	Dean of Grinnell Deanery

**James M. Janssen**, 81, of Davenport; ordained March 19, 1948

Assignments:

4/8/48 - 8/48	Victor: St. Bridget	Assistant
9/48 - 5/18/50	Burlington: St. Paul	Assistant
5/18/50 - 7/9/53	Clinton: St. Irenaeus	Assistant
7/9/53 - 8/16/53	East Pleasant Plain: St. Joseph	Assistant
8/16/53 - 12/6/53	Leave of Absence	
12/7/53 - 11/13/56	Newton: Sacred Heart	Assistant
11/56 - 6/58	Leave of Absence/Suspension Chicago: Loyola University	Graduate Study
6/6/58 - 9/58	Holbrook: St. Michael	Substitute Pastor
9/58 - 1/26/59	Leave of Absence/Suspension	
1/26/59 - 6/25/59	Delmar: St. Patrick	Administrator
6/25/59 - 6/29/61	Davenport: St. Mary	Assistant
6/29/61 - 2/1/67	Fort Madison: St. Joseph	Assistant
2/1/67 - 10/11/79	Sugar Creek: St. Joseph	Pastor
9/7/72 - 2/4/79	Bryant: St. Mary	Pastor
10/11/79 - 10/21/80	Davenport: St. Anthony	Co-Pastor
10/21/80 - 8/15/90	Grand Mound: Sts. Philip and James	Pastor
8/15/90 - 11/5/91	Leave of Absence for health reasons	
11/5/1991	To Retirement	

OfficesHeld:

1973	Priests' Senate
2/1/76 - 1/1/89	Priests' Personnel Board
7/24/80 - 8/15/90	Boy Scouts, Chaplain

## Priest Assignments

**Frank R. Martinez, Jr.**, 54, of Davenport; ordained August 28, 1982

Assignments:

9/16/82 - 1/14/84	Davenport: Sacred Heart Cathedral	Associate Pastor
1/14/84 - 10/8/85	Lost Nation: Sacred Heart	Pastor
4/24/84 - 10/8/85	Toronto: St. James	Pastor
10/8/85 - 11/27/85	Leave of Absence-Decatur, Ill.: St. Mary Hospital	Chaplain
11/27/85 - 11/1/86	Buffalo: St. Peter	Parochial Administrator
11/1/86 - 1/5/87	Bauer: St. Joseph	Pastor
	Melcher: Sacred Heart	Pastor
1/15/87 -	Leave of Absence for personal reasons	

**Richard Poster**, 39, of Blue Grass; ordained December 5, 1992

Assignments:

12/22/92 - 8/8/95	Iowa City: St. Mary	Parochial Vicar
8/8/95 - 7/1/96	Keokuk: All Saints	Parochial Vicar
7/1/96 - 11/16/96	Bettendorf: St. John Vianney	Parochial Vicar
	Davenport: St. Ambrose University	On Faculty - part-time
11/16/96 - 7/2/01	Lost Nation: Sacred Heart	Pastor
	Toronto: St. James	Pastor
	Oxford Junction: Sacred Heart	Pastor
7/2/2001	to Liturgical studies	
12/2002	Leave of Absence	

Offices Held:

1993	Worship & Spiritual Life Commission
1996 -	Coordinating Director of Liturgy
2000	Director of Liturgy

**William F. Wiebler**, 76, in treatment in Missouri; ordained June 4, 1955

Assignments:

6/23/55 - 6/20/57	Clear Creek: Sts. Peter and Paul	Assistant
6/20/57 - 6/1958	Davenport: St. Ambrose Academy	On Faculty
6/30/57 - 8/15/57	Davenport: St. Vincent Home	Chaplain
6/1958 - 7/1/64	Davenport: Assumption HS	On Faculty
7/1/64 - 8/17/67	Clinton: St. Mary	Assistant
8/17/67 - 8/28/69	Iowa City: St. Mary	Assistant
8/28/69 - 10/7/71	Farmington: St. Boniface	Pastor
	String Prairie: St. Mary	Pastor
10/7/71 - 8/1/80	Bettendorf: Our Lady of Lourdes	Pastor
8/1/80 - 2/1/85	Ottumwa: St. Mary of the Visitation	Pastor
2/1/85-	Leave of Absence to Walls, MS.	
	Editor of "League of the Sacred Heart publication"	
11-20-91	To Retirement	

## Review Board of the Diocese of Davenport

Bishop William Franklin appointed the following members to the Diocesan Review Board in January 2003:

- The Honorable Clarence Darrow. He is a partner in the law firm of Law Offices of Clarence Darrow. From 1986-1996 he served as Illinois circuit judge with jurisdiction over civil and criminal cases. Prior to that, he was partner in the law firm of Collinson, Taber and Darrow for 11 years, served in both the Illinois Senate and House of Representatives during an 11-year span, served as assistant state's attorney in Rock Island County for four years, was a psychiatric social worker from 1966-1971 in group, marital and family counseling as well as a Child Abuse Investigator/Court Liaison. Darrow also serves as a board member of Humility of Mary Housing Inc., and is a member of such organizations as Bread for the World and the Knights of Columbus. He has been recognized many times for his legislative service. Darrow is a member of St. Anthony's parish in Davenport.
- Catherine Fouts is the president of the Diocesan Board of Education and vice president of the Newton Community School District Board of Education. She has served our diocese as a coordinator of religious education and has been a catechist for 12 years. She completed the Diocese of Davenport Ministry Formation Program in 1999 and the Grinnell Deanery Catechist Faith Formation Program in 1998. Fouts attended Loras College in Dubuque and received her bachelor of liberal studies from the University of Iowa in 1984. She holds various certifications as a coach and official. Her varied community involvement includes activities as a member of Skiff Hospital Auxiliary where she served as past program chair and health education chair and she taught classes for babysitting. She is a member of Sacred Heart parish, Newton.
- Bernard Hardiek is retired from Deere & Company where he served as president of the Worldwide Agricultural Equipment Division. He worked for the company for 20 years in various capacities including business development and planning. Previously, he worked for the Internal Revenue Service for 16 years, and also worked in various capacities that included field audit branch chief, chief of the appeals office and assistant regional commissioner, appeals, in Chicago. Hardiek is a Certified Public Accountant with a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Eastern Illinois University. He has served on various boards of directors including Moline Lutheran Hospital, Arrowhead Ranch and St. Ambrose University. He is a member of Christ the King parish, Moline, Ill.
- Msgr. James Parizek, JCL is a Promoter of Justice for the Diocese of Davenport and pastor of Our Lady of Victory parish, Davenport. He has served in a variety of positions in the diocese since his ordination in 1972, including assistant chancellor and diocesan judicial vicar, a position in which he oversaw the Diocesan Tribunal from 1981-2000. He has been a member of the Tribunal since 1976. He contributes his experience and education in Canon Law to the Review Board. The approved Norms recommend participation by a Promoter of Justice.
- Chris McCormick Pries, ARNP is the associate director for research, evaluation and community relations with Vera French Community Mental Health Center in Davenport. She is an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, holding certification as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in child and adolescent psychiatric and mental health nursing from the American Nurses Association. She has been with Vera French since 1975 and earlier held positions of assistant director for quality assurance, coordinator of adolescent outpatient services, chief of nursing services, psychiatric nurse on the child/adolescent team, and consultant on the consultation team. McCormick Pries also provided counseling services to St. Ambrose students from 1984-1985. She serves on the adjunct faculty of the University of Iowa College of Nursing and has done so since 1986. She also served as an instructor at the former Marycrest College and at Black Hawk College in Illinois. She is a member of St. John Vianney parish in Bettendorf.