Clergy with credible claims against them concerning sexual abuse of a young person

As part of the Diocese of Duluth’s ongoing efforts to foster safe environments for children and young people, Bishop Paul D. Sirba released on December 31, 2013 information about clergy members who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of young persons while serving or residing in the Duluth Diocese. Included in the release are clergy members who served as diocesan priests as well as clergy from other dioceses or religious orders who at one time worked or resided in the Duluth Diocese.

Despite our best efforts to make sure our information is accurate and complete, we know that it may include errors or be incomplete. We ask that anyone who believes they have information about any instance of child sexual abuse involving any member of the clergy to contact their local law enforcement and the diocese or a diocesan assistance coordinator. Contact information for the diocese and its coordinators is listed in the diocesan newspaper and on the diocesan website.

The list below includes those clergy members whose names were provided to the John Jay Study conducted in 2004, one diocesan priest against whom credible claims have been made subsequent to the compilation of the John Jay list and four non-diocesan clergy who worked or resided in the diocese and who are the subject of allegations made against other institutions. The names included in the John Jay Study have had credible accusations made against them which, for purposes of the study, was a standard defined to be “not implausible.” An allegation was considered “implausible” only if it could not possibly have happened under the given circumstances.

1. Rev. Kirby Blanchard

Date of birth: 11/16/1928
Date of ordination: 5/30/1953
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:
   Pastor: Our Lady of Fatima Church, Garrison – 1/7/1965 – 8/24/1966
   Pastor: St. Joseph’s Church, Deerwood – 1/7/1965 – 8/24/1966
   Pastor: St. Mary’s Church, Deer River – 8/24/1966 – 2/27/1969
   Chaplain: St. Joseph’s Hospital, Brainerd – 9/1/1976 – 12/5/1993
   Retired: 12/5/1993

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest
Date removed from ministry: 12/27/1995
Current location: Deceased
2. Rev. Louis Brouillard

*Date of birth:* 07/27/1921  
*Date of ordination:* 12/17/1948  
*Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:*  
- Pastor: St. Anne, Kelly Lake - 7/11/1984 – 11/12/1985  
*Diocese or religious order:* Priest of the Diocese of Agana, Guam  
*Date removed from ministry:* 11/12/1985  
*Current location:* Pine City, MN  
*Current status:* Removed from ministry, Faculties revoked

3. Rev. Victor Chateauvert, MSF

*Date of birth:* 5/25/1919  
*Date of ordination:* 8/25/1973  
*Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:*  
*Diocese or religious order:* Priest of the Holy Family Missionaries  
*Date removed from ministry:* 12/28/1992 – Returned to Order  
*Current location:* Deceased  
*Current status:* Died 3/3/1999

4. Rev. Leonard Colston

*Date of birth:* 10/10/1936  
*Date of ordination:* 1980  
*Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:*  
*Diocese or religious order:* Diocesan Priest  
*Date removed from ministry:* 9/6/1986 Resigned from the Diocese of Duluth  
*Current location:* Deceased  
5. Rev. Raymond Cossette

Date of birth: 12/24/1929  
Date of ordination: 6/4/1955  
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:  
- Instructor, Dean of Discipline, Athletic Director, Principal, Chaplain - Duluth Cathedral High School; Duluth – 8/16/1962 – 7/21/1965  
- Chaplain: Carmel Heights, Duluth – 8/16/1962 – 7/21/1965  
- Pastor: St. Peter's Church, Duluth – 8/24/1966 – 9/9/1969  
- Diocesan Superintendent of Schools: 8/24/66-9/9/69  
- Chaplain: Brainerd State Hospital - 7/29/75 – 1/1 1995  
- Retired: 1/1/1995  
Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest  
Date removed from ministry: 12/31/2013  
Current location: Brainerd, MN  
Current status: Removed from ministry, Faculties revoked

6. Rev. Frederick Fox

Date of birth: 08/28/1926  
Date of ordination: 7/7/1952  
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:  
- Asst. Pastor: St. James Church, Duluth – 7/30/1952 – 9/14/1956  
- School: Catholic University of America – 9/14/1956 – 7/5/1957  
- Asst. Pastor: St. John the Evangelist Church, Duluth – 7/5/1957 – 1/18/1965  
- Director: St. James Children’s Home, Duluth 1/18/1965 -8/19/1970  
- On Leave: to work with Family Services-Duluth Drug Abuse Program 12/13/1970  
- Retirement: 6/1/1987  
Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest  
Date removed from ministry: 1/28/1988  
Current location: Deceased  
Current status: Died 6/17/1999
7. Rev. John Golobich

Date of birth: 03/03/1923  
Date of ordination: 6/5/1948  
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:  
   Pastor: St. Mary's Church, Silver Bay – 6/29/1965 – 7/1/1981  
   Pastor: St. Anthony's Church, Duluth – 7/1/1981 – 7/11/1984  
   Pastor: St. James Church, Duluth – 7/11/1984 – 7/14/1993  
   Administrator: St. Elizabeth Church, Duluth – 7/12/2001 – 1/15/2002  
   Retired: 7/14/1993  
Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest  
Date removed from ministry: Reprimanded – inappropriate behavior involving hugging and kissing  
Current location: Deceased  
Current status: Died 6/5/2011

8. Rev. Ralph Goniea, OMI

Date of birth: 12/23/1937  
Date of ordination: 1963  
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:  
   Asst. Pastor: St. Jean’s, Duluth – 9/1/1965 – 12/22/1966  
Diocese or religious order:  
   Priest of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
Date removed from ministry: Cleric no longer in diocese at time of allegation  
Current location: Deceased  
Current status: Died 3/24/2003

9. Rev. Robert Klein

Date of birth: 10/17/1931  
Date of ordination: 6/2/1956  
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:  
   Director of Liturgy: 1981 - 1983  
   Leave: Unassigned, Disability Leave – 8/1/1983  
Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest  
Date removed from ministry: 9/18/1987  
Current location: Deceased  
Current status: Died 2/16/2000
10. Rev. Mark Makowski

**Date of birth:** 10/31/1956  
**Date of ordination:** 6/7/1987  
**Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:**
   - Pastor: St. Benedict's Church, Duluth – 7/18/1990 – 7/14/1993  
   - Pastor: Queen of Peace Church, Hoyt Lakes – 7/14/1993 – 9/1/1993  
   - Pastor: St. John's Church, Grand Marais – 9/1/1993 – 1/12/1995  
   - Pastor: Holy Rosary Church, Grand Portage – 9/1/1993 – 1/12/1995

**Diocese or religious order:** Diocesan Priest  
**Date removed from ministry:** 1/12/1995  
**Current location:** Sun City, AZ  
**Current status:** Removed from ministry, Faculties revoked

11. Rev. (Thomas) Gregory Manning

**Date of birth:** 05/25/1918  
**Date of ordination:** 3/25/1944  
**Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:**
   - Pastor: St. Louis Church, Floodwood, & missions of Goodland & Warba – 7/20/1950 – 7/22/1953  
   - Pastor: St. John the Baptist Church, Biwabik – 7/22/1953 – 10/16/1957  
   - Left Diocese: 12/1/1957

**Diocese or religious order:** Diocesan Priest  
**Date removed from ministry:** 10/16/1957  
**Current location:** Deceased  
**Current status:** Died 8/15/1979


**Date of birth:** 01/23/1918  
**Date of ordination:** 6/5/1948  
**Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:**
   - Director: Diocesan Director of Scouting – 8/5/1948 – 5/2/1961  
   - Administrator, St. Mary's Church, Deer River, and  
   - Pastor: St. Mary's Church, Deer River and St. Augustine, Cohasset – 4/28/1960 – 8/24/1966  

**Diocese or religious order:** Diocesan Priest  
**Date removed from ministry:** Deceased  
**Current location:** Deceased  
**Current status:** Died 12/6/1988
13. Rev. Dennis Puhl

Date of birth: 03/28/1947
Date of ordination: 6/15/1974
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:
  Pastor: St. Casimir’s Church, Cloquet and mission at Cromwell – 7/15/1978 – 7/15/1979
  Sick Leave: 11/1/1980
Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest
Date removed from ministry: 7/15/1986 signed a statement terminating priestly ministry and affiliation with Diocese of Duluth
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Died 12/11/1995

14. Rev. Thomas Stack

Date of birth: 05/11/1914
Date of ordination: 3/25/1944
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:
  Asst. Pastor: Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Virginia – 4/20/1944 – 12/14/1950
  Pastor: St. Joseph’s Church, Gnesen and
      St. Joseph’s Church, Lakewood – 12/14/1950 – 8/10/1955
  Pastor: Good Shepherd Church, Duluth – 9/29/1964 – 1/6/1968
  Pastor: St. Anthony’s Church, Ely – 9/27/1972 – 8/1/1973
Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest
Date removed from ministry: Deceased at time of allegation
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Died 2/24/1987

15. Rev. Joseph Thibaudeau, OMI

Date of birth: 10/17/1869
Date of ordination: 8/15/1896
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:
  St. Jean’s, Duluth - 6/30/1910 – 7/1943
Diocese or religious order: Priest of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Date removed from ministry: Deceased at time of allegation
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Died 1946, Manitoba, Canada
16. Rev. Stephen Toporowitz

**Date of birth:** 5/13/1914  
**Date of ordination:** 6/7/1941  
**Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:**  
- Pastor: St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Duluth – 9/4/1941 – 10/12/1944  
- Pastor: Willow River and Split Rock – 10/17/1944 – 6/10/1964  
  (Split Rock attached to Sturgeon Lake 4/20/1960)  
- Pastor: St. Joseph’s Church, Deerwood  
  and mission of Our Lady of Fatima, Garrison – 6/10/1964 – 1/7/1965  
- Chaplain: St. Joseph’s Hospital, Brainerd – 1/7/1965 – 8/24/1966  
- Pastor: St. John's Church, Virginia – 8/24/1966 – 6/16/1969  
**Diocese or religious order:** Diocesan Priest  
**Date removed from ministry:** Deceased at time of allegation  
**Current location:** Deceased  
**Current status:** Died 6/16/1969

17. Rev. Angelo Zankl, OSB

**Date of birth:** 04/19/1901  
**Date of ordination:** 5/29/1926  
**Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:**  
- St. Clement’s, Duluth – 7/18/1951 – 8/8/1967  
- Left the Diocese: 5/30/1987  
**Diocese or religious order:** Priest of the Order of St. Benedict  
**Date removed from ministry:** Deceased at time of allegation  
**Current location:** Deceased  
**Current status:** Died 7/12/2007

18. UN-NAMED ACCUSED PERSON NO LONGER IN MINISTRY

The name of a former priest was included in the list provided to the John Jay Study solely on the basis of a single vague and ambiguous allegation that did not identify the priest by name. A subsequent investigation did not produce any further information or corroboration. This individual voluntarily left the priesthood prior to and not related to the allegation. As a result, the diocese is re-investigating this matter but is not releasing the former priest’s name at this time.
Rev. Cornelius Kelleher

Date of birth: 9/9/1932
Date of ordination: 6/17/1956
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:
- Asst. Pastor: St. James Church, Duluth – 9/14/1956 – 9/16/1959
- Asst. Pastor: St. Joseph’s Church, Crosby – 9/16/1959 – 9/22/1960
- Pastor: St. Andrew’s Church, Brainerd – 7/21/1986 – 7/16/1997
- Pastor: St. Patrick’s Church, Hinckley and St. Joseph’s Church, Beroun – 7/16/1997 – 7/11/2012
- Retired: July 11, 2012

Diocese or religious order: Diocesan Priest
Date removed from ministry: 10/2/2012
Current location: Proctor, MN
Current status: Removed from ministry, Faculties revoked

Rev. J. Vincent Fitzgerald, OMI

Date of birth: 12/9/1919
Date of ordination: 5/28/1950
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:
- Pastor: St. Michael’s, Northome; Our Lady of the Snows, Bigfork and St. Theresa, Effie – 11/13/1957 – 9/10/1961
- Pastor: Holy Cross, Orr – 9/1/1963 – 9/1/1964
- Pastor: Immaculate Conception, Nett Lake – 9/1/1963 – 8/2/1966

Diocese or religious order: Priest of Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Date removed from ministry: Deceased at time of allegation
Current location: Deceased
Current status: Died 2009
Rev. Othmar Hohmann, OSB

**Date of birth:** 1/28/1900  
**Date of ordination:** 6/7/1931  
**Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:**  
**Diocese or religious order:**  
Priest of the Order of St. Benedict  
**Date removed from ministry:** Retired in 1976  
**Current location:** Deceased  
**Current status:** Died 1/24/1980

Rev. Richard Jeub

**Date of birth:** 2/21/1940  
**Date of ordination:** 1966  
**Cleric’s prior assignments in archdiocese:**  
Associate priest, St. Joseph, Hopkins, 1966-1967;  
Associate priest, Our Lady of Grace, Edina, 1967-1970  
Associate priest, St. Mark, St. Paul, 1970-1976;  
Associate priest, Christ the King, Minneapolis, 1976-1978;  
Chaplain, Methodist Hospital, St. Louis Park, 1978-1982;  
Chaplain, Fairview Southdale Hospital, Edina, 1978-1982;  
Pastor, St. Kevin, Minneapolis, 1981-1990;  
Associate priest, Sacred Heart, Robbinsdale, 1996-1997;  
Associate priest, Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence, Faribault, 1997-2000;  
Associate priest, St. Rose of Lima, Roseville, 2000-2002;  
Retired, 2002  
**Diocese or religious order:** Priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis  
**Date permanently removed from ministry:** 2002  
**Current location:** Crosby, Minn.  
**Current status:** Permanently removed from ministry

Rev. Brennen Maiers, OSB

**Date of birth:** 4/27/1936  
**Date of ordination:** 6/1/1963  
**Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:**  
Adjunct Chaplain: St. Mary’s Medical Center, Duluth – 1/4/1991 -4/1996  
**Diocese or religious order:**  
Priest of the Order of St. Benedict  
**Date permanently removed from ministry:** 6/2002  
**Current location:** St. John’s Abbey, Collegeville, MN  
**Current status:** Permanently removed from ministry
Rev. Timothy Conlon, OSC

Date of birth:  
Date of ordination: 1979  
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:  
- Holy Family Church, McGregor  
  as part of a Deacon Internship – 1978-1979  
Diocese or religious order: 
  Priest of the Crosier Fathers  
Date permanently removed from ministry:  
Current location: Gallup, N.M.  
Current status: 1/2014 removed from ministry

Rev. James Porter

Date of birth: 1/2/1935  
Date of ordination: 1960  
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:  
Diocese or religious order:  
  Diocese of Crookston  
Date permanently removed from ministry: 1970  
Current location: Deceased  
Current status: Died 2/11/2005

Rev. Urban Schmitt, OSC

Date of birth: 7/19/1919  
Date of ordination: 6/4/1949  
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:  
Diocese or religious order:  
  Crosier Fathers  
Date permanently removed from ministry:  
Current location: Deceased  
Current status: Deceased

Rev. Charles Gormly

Date of birth: 9/21/1910  
Date of ordination: 5/26/1935  
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese: Lived at St. James Church rectory, Duluth 7/23/1960-8/18/1960;  
  Asst. Pastor - St. Lawrence Church, Duluth - 7/23/1960-8/18/1960;  
Diocese or religious order: Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming  
Date permanently removed from ministry:  
Current location: Deceased  
Current status: Died 1/11/1968
Rev. Brian Lederer

**Date of birth:** 6/25/1985  
**Date of ordination:** 6/22/2012  
**Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:**  
Parochial Vicar – Blessed Sacrament Church, Hibbing – 7/11/2012 – 7/7/2015  
**Diocese or religious order:** Diocese of Duluth  
**Date permanently removed from ministry:**  
**Current location:** Duluth, MN  
**Current status:** Placed on Administrative Leave as of May 7, 2015

Rev. Paul Kabat, OMI

**Date of birth:** 1/16/32  
**Date of ordination:** 9/8/1958  
**Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:**  
**Diocese or religious order:** Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
**Date permanently removed from ministry:**  
**Current location:** Deceased  
**Current status:** Deceased – 5/31/1999

Rev. Thomas Meyer, OMI

**Date of birth:** 8/4/1938  
**Date of ordination:** 9/8/1970  
**Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:**  
**Diocese or religious order:** Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
**Date permanently removed from ministry:**  
**Current location:** Deceased  
**Current status:** Deceased – 7/7/2012

Rev. Robert Reitmeier, OMI

**Date of birth:** 9/10/1943  
**Date of ordination:** 6/19/1971  
**Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:**  
**Diocese or religious order:** Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
**Date permanently removed from ministry:** Left congregation in 1992  
**Current location:** Chicago, IL  
**Current status:** Laicized – 9/8/2007
Rev. Michael Charland, OMI

Date of birth: 6/22/1945  
Date of ordination: 8/21/1971  
Cleric's prior assignments in diocese:  
Not assigned to the Diocese of Duluth, but served as Spiritual Director on TEC retreats in 1977 at Rainy River Community College.  
Diocese or religious order: Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
Date permanently removed from ministry: Left congregation in 1984  
Current location: Woodbury, MN  
Current status: Laicized – December 6, 1989

Rev. Bernard W. Bissonnette

Date of birth: 10/8/1931  
Date of ordination: 5/15/1958  
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese:  
St. Cecilia Church, Nashwauk – 6/26/1965 – 1/1966  
Diocese or religious order: Diocese of Norwich Connecticut  
Date permanently removed from ministry: Left the Diocese of Duluth 1/1966  
Current location: Unknown  
Current status: Dismissed from the Clerical State 5/20/2005

Rev. Alfred Longley

Date of birth: 9/17/1913  
Date of ordination: 1939  
Cleric’s prior assignments in diocese: Never assigned in the Diocese of Duluth – resided in Brainerd area  
Diocese or religious order: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis  
Date permanently removed from ministry: 1968  
Current location: Deceased  
Current status: Deceased – 1974

Links to other lists:

Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis  
http://safe-environment.archspm.org/accountability/clergy-disclosures/

Diocese of Crookston  

Diocese of St. Cloud  
http://communications.stcdio.org/globalsearch/?mssearch=list+of+abuser+priests&msp=1&mswhere=all

Diocese of Winona  
http://www.dow.org/News/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/142/DIOCESE-DISCLOSES-NAMES
St. John’s Abbey

http://www.saintjohnsabbey.org/info/safe-environment/

Crosier Fathers (copy and paste address into your browser)


Oblates of Mary Immaculate