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
   - 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 – ?/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. 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: 1979
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:
    Holy Family, Barnum and Holy Trinity, Moose Lake – 8/4/1964 – 7/14/1966
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  
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 – 12/6/1989

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: Deceased
Current status: Deceased – 12/24/2008

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