Clergy with Substantiated Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse

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The following clergy on this list have had a substantiated allegation of child sexual abuse. None are in public ministry.

An allegation is deemed to be substantiated if it has been sufficiently confirmed so as to believe that abuse occurred. This determination follows a process of consultation and is not a legal judgment.

The fact that a specific parish is on the list does not mean that an act of abuse occurred at said parish. It's only significance is that a priest on our list once served at that parish.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Questions about this list should be in writing and directed to the Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004.

The names on this list are divided into three categories:

(1) Diocesan clergy
(2) Non-Diocesan clergy with a substantiated allegation in the Diocese of La Crosse
(3) Non-Diocesan clergy who spent time in the Diocese of La Crosse and whose name appears on a list in another diocese or religious order
(1) **Diocesan clergy**: a priest or deacon incardinated in the Diocese of La Crosse, against whom a complaint was filed and found to be substantiated, relating to conduct occurring in the Diocese of La Crosse or while the cleric was incardinated in the Diocese of La Crosse.

**Bruce Ball**

*Date of Ordination*: May 27, 1978  
*Pastoral Assignments*:  
St. Mary Help of Christians, Colby  
Immaculate Conception, Eau Claire – Regis High School  
St. Thomas More, La Crosse – Aquinas High School  
Our Lady of Peace, Marshfield – Columbus High School  
St. Vincent de Paul, Wisconsin Rapids  
*Substantiated Allegations*: Multiple  
*Current Status*: Deceased – Sept. 15, 2002  
*Date Added / Last Modified*: January 18, 2020

**Raymond Bornbach**

*Date of Ordination*: June 7, 1941  
*Pastoral Assignments*:  
St. Anthony de Padua, Cazenovia  
St. Michael, Hewitt  
St. Michael, Junction City  
St. John the Baptist, Marshfield  
St. Paul, Mosinee  
St. Paul, New Lisbon  
Holy Rosary, Owen – Sacred Heart, Withee  
Holy Name, Wausau  
*Substantiated Allegations*: Multiple  
*Date Added / Last Modified*: January 18, 2020

**Eugene Comiskey**

*Date of Ordination*: December 8, 1945  
*Pastoral Assignments*:  
St. Joseph, Boyd  
Holy Ghost, Chippewa Falls  
St. Patrick, Halder  
Holy Trinity, La Crosse  
St. John the Baptist, Marshfield – Columbus High School  
Christ the King, Spencer  
*Substantiated Allegations*: Multiple  
*Current Status*: Deceased – Aug. 21, 1982  
*Date Added / Last Modified*: January 18, 2020
Thomas Dempsey
Date of Ordination: May 14, 1955
Pastoral Assignments:
St. Mary, Bangor
St. Paul, Bloomer
St. Martin Mission, Boaz
Northern Colony and Training School, Chippewa Falls
St. Wenceslaus, Eastman
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Eau Claire – Sacred Heart Hospital
St. Charles Borromeo, Genoa – Aquinas High School
Holy Trinity, La Crosse
St. Thomas More, La Crosse
St. Wenceslaus, La Crosse
St. Patrick, Mauston – Madonna High School
St. Philip the Apostle, Rudolph
St. Philip, Soldiers Grove
Served Outside the Diocese of La Crosse
Substantiated Allegations: Multiple
Current Status: Deceased – June 3, 1998
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020

James Ennis
Date of Ordination: April 16, 1950
Pastoral Assignments:
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Arcadia
St. Kilian, Blenker
St. John Nepomucene, Dilly
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Eau Claire
St. Patrick, Elroy
St. Bridget, Ettrick – St. Ansgar, Blair
St. Aloysius, Hillsboro
St. James the Less, La Crosse
St. Michael, North Creek
St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Schofield
St. John the Baptist, Wilton
St. Wenceslaus, Yuba – St. Joseph, Mt. Tabor
Substantiated Allegations: Multiple
Current Status: Deceased – Feb. 12, 2000
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020
James Finucan

**Date of Ordination:** March 22, 1947  
**Pastoral Assignments:**  
St. John the Baptist, Cooks Valley  
St. Wenceslaus, Eastman  
St. James the Greater, Eau Claire  
Diocese of La Crosse, Curia Staff  
Holy Rosary, Owen  
St. John Nepomucene, Prairie du Chien  
St. Joseph, Stevens Point  
St. Anne, Wausau  
Outside of Diocese – Divine Word Centre, Ontario Canada

**Substantiated Allegations:** Single  
**Current Status:** Deceased – June 12, 2009  
**Date Added / Last Modified:** January 18, 2020

John Thomas Finucan

**Date of Ordination:** December 17, 1955  
**Pastoral Assignments:**  
Immaculate Conception, Fountain City  
Viterbo University, La Crosse  
Most Sacred Heart, Pine Creek  
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Richland Center  
St. Stanislaus, Stevens Point  
St. Mary (Immaculate Conception), Wausau – Newman High School  
St. Lawrence, Wisconsin Rapids – Assumption High School  
Outside Diocese of La Crosse – College Seminary Study  
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee  
Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis, St. Paul, MN  
St. Mary’s College of Minnesota, Winona, MN

**Substantiated Allegations:** Single  
**Current Status:** Deceased – May 14, 2018  
**Date Added / Last Modified:** January 18, 2020
Tom Garthwaite

**Date of Ordination:** May 14, 1955  
**Pastoral Assignments:**  
St. Joseph Hospital, Arcadia  
St. Anthony de Padua, Augusta – St. John the Apostle, Fall Creek  
St. Anthony, Drywood  
Sacred Heart, Jim Falls  
St. Joseph, Kendall – St. Patrick, Elroy – St. John the Baptist, Wilton  
Sacred Heart, Marshfield  
St. Patrick, Mauston – Madonna High School  
St. Patrick, Sparta – St. Mary Hospital  
St. Stephen, Stevens Point  
**Substantiated Allegations:** Multiple  
**Current Status:** Removed from Ministry, Jan. 12, 2004  
**Date Added / Last Modified:** January 18, 2020

Richard Herrmann

**Date of Ordination:** October 28, 1944  
**Pastoral Assignments:**  
St. Charles Borromeo, Chippewa Falls – McDonell High School  
St. Joseph the Workman, La Crosse  
Holy Rosary, Lima  
St. John the Baptist, Marshfield  
St. Wenceslaus, Milladore  
Holy Family, Poniatowksi  
St. Philip the Apostle, Rudolph  
Holy Rosary, Sigel  
St. Mary (Immaculate Conception), Wausau  
SS. Peter & Paul, Wisconsin Rapids  
Outside of the Diocese of La Crosse  
St. Anne, Boulder Junction, WI  
Our Lady of Sorrows, Ladysmith, WI  
St. Rita, Presque Isle, WI  
St. Mary, Sayner, WI  
**Substantiated Allegations:** Multiple  
**Current Status:** Deceased – Feb. 18, 2016  
**Date Added / Last Modified:** January 18, 2020
William Hertzenberg

Date of Ordination: May 19, 1956
Pastoral Assignments:
Notre Dame, Chippewa Falls
St. Mary’s Assumption, Durand
SS. Peter & Paul, Independence
St. Wenceslaus, La Crosse
Sacred Heart, Nekoosa – Assumption High School, Wisconsin Rapids
St. Lawrence, Wisconsin Rapids – Assumption High School

Substantiated Allegations: Multiple
Current Status: Deceased – Feb. 16, 1995
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020

Thomas Langer

Date of Ordination: May 19, 1956
Pastoral Assignments:
All Saints, Babcock
St. Paul, Bloomer
St. John the Baptist, Cooks Valley
St. Mary, Gays Mills – St. Philip, Rolling Ground
Holy Trinity, La Crosse – Aquinas High School
St. John, La Crosse
St. Joseph Hospital, Marshfield – Columbus High School
St. Jude, New Auburn
Holy Family, Poniatowski – Newman High School, Wausau
St. Alexander, Port Edwards
St. Joseph, Rock Falls – Regis High School
SS. Peter & Paul, Wisconsin Rapids – Assumption High School
Outside the Diocese of La Crosse – Parkersburg Catholic High School, Parkersburg, WV

Substantiated Allegations: Single
Current Status: Deceased – Aug. 20, 2004
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020

James E. Mason

Date of Ordination: April 27, 1967
Pastoral Assignments:
McDonell High School, Chippewa Falls
Immaculate Conception, Eau Claire – Regis High School
Newman Center, Eau Claire – Regis High School
St. Joseph the Workman, La Crosse
St. Pius X, La Crosse
Roncalli Newman, La Crosse
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Richland Center

Substantiated Allegations: Multiple
Current Status: Laicized – Jan. 19, 2004
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020
Garland Muller
Date of Ordination: June 11, 1938
Pastoral Assignments:
Corpus Christi, Bakerville
St. John the Baptist, Cooks Valley
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Keyesville
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Marathon
St. Philip the Apostle, Rudolph
St. Mary (Immaculate Conception), Wausau
St. John the Baptist, Wilton
Outside the Diocese of La Crosse – St. John the Baptist, Wuerzburg, Germany
Substantiated Allegations: Multiple
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020

Charles Rasmussen
Date of Ordination: May 28, 1977
Pastoral Assignments:
St. James the Less, La Crosse
St. Bronislava, Plover
St. Stanislaus, Stevens Point
Substantiated Allegations: Multiple
Current Status: Deceased – Sept. 18, 2011
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020

Albert Sonnberger
Date of Ordination: October 7, 1956
Pastoral Assignments:
Notre Dame, Chippewa Falls
St. Charles Borromeo, Chippewa Falls
St. John the Baptist, Cooks Valley
Blessed Sacrament, La Crosse
Diocese of La Crosse, Curia Staff
St. James the Less, La Crosse – Aquinas High School
St. Joseph the Workman, La Crosse
St. Peter, Middle Ridge
St. Philip, Soldiers Grove – St. Martin, Boaz
St. Peter, Tilden
Substantiated Allegations: Single
Current Status: Inactive Ministry – Nov. 20, 2018
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020
James Stauber

**Date of Ordination:** May 9, 1959
**Pastoral Assignments:**
- Holy Guardian Angels, Brackett
- St. Mary Help of Christians, Colby
- St. Patrick Jr. High School – Regis High School, Eau Claire
- St. Joseph the Workman, La Crosse
- Holy Rosary, Lima
- Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Marathon
- St. John Nepomucene, Prairie du Chien – St. Mary’s Academy
- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Nekoosa – Assumption High School, Wisconsin Rapids
- Outside the Diocese of La Crosse
- Mother of Perpetual Help, Milwaukee, WI
- St. Catherine of Alexandria, Riverside, CA

**Substantiated Allegations:** Multiple
**Current Status:** Deceased – Aug. 14, 2010
**Date Added / Last Modified:** January 18, 2020

Patrick Umberger

**Date of Ordination:** May 16, 1980
**Pastoral Assignments:**
- Holy Family, Arcadia
- St. Ansgar, Blair – St. John the Apostle, Whitehall
- St. Patrick, Elroy – St. Theresa, Union Center – St. Jerome, Wonewoc
- St. James the Less, La Crosse
- St. Patrick, Mauston
- St. Patrick, Onalaska
- St. Bronislava, Plover
- Outside the Diocese of La Crosse
- Immaculate Heart of Mary, West Allis
- Immaculate Conception, Burlington

**Substantiated Allegations:** Multiple
**Current Status:** Deceased – Nov. 30, 2010
**Date Added / Last Modified:** January 18, 2020
Raymond J. Wagner

**Date of Ordination:** May 31, 1952  
**Pastoral Assignments:**  
- St. Joseph Hospital, Arcadia  
- St. Joseph, Black River Falls  
- St. Anthony de Padua, Cazenovia  
- St. Patrick, Eau Claire  
- St. Wenceslaus, Eastman  
- St. Mary, Gays Mills  
- St. Joseph, Kendall  
- Holy Family, Poniatowski  
- St. Joseph, Rock Falls  
- St. Patrick, Sparta  
- St. Stephen, Stevens Point  
- Holy Name, Sparta  
- St. Mary (Immaculate Conception), Wausau  
**Substantiated Allegations:** Multiple  
**Current Status:** Deceased – Oct. 14, 2009  
**Date Added / Last Modified:** January 18, 2020

(2) **Non-Diocesan clergy with a substantiated allegation in the Diocese of La Crosse:** a priest or deacon who is either from a religious order or from a diocese other than the Diocese of La Crosse, against whom an allegation was filed and found to be substantiated, while the individual was serving in the Diocese of La Crosse. For these names, not all otherwise reported information may be accessible to the Diocese of La Crosse, e.g., date of ordination or assignment history. All information available to the Diocese of La Crosse has been reported.

Timothy Svea

**Date of Ordination:** November 11, 1992  
**Pastoral Assignments:**  
- Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Mary’s Ridge  
- Veterans Administration Hospital, Tomah  
- St. Mary’s Oratory, Wausau  
**Substantiated Allegations:** Multiple  
**Current Status:** Last assignment in the Diocese of La Crosse – Nov. 2000  
**Date Added / Last Modified:** January 18, 2020
Bogdan Werra
Date of Ordination: May 7, 1981
Pastoral Assignments:
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Keyesville
St. Killian, Bear Valley – Sacred Heart, Lone Rock – St. Anthony de Padua Parish, Cazenovia
St. Peter, Stevens Point
Substantiated Allegations: Single
Current Status: Suspended from Diocese of La Crosse Nov. 14, 1994
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020

(3) Non-Diocesan clergy who spent time in the Diocese of La Crosse and whose name appears on a list in another diocese or religious order: a priest or deacon who is either from a religious order or from a diocese other than the Diocese of La Crosse, against whom an allegation was filed and found to be substantiated by another diocese or religious order. The Diocese of La Crosse would have no specific information relating to the allegation.

Dennis Bouche
Date of Ordination:
Pastoral Assignments:
SS. Peter & Paul, Independence
Substantiated Allegations: Single (per Diocese of Green Bay)
Current Status: Deceased – April 2, 1995
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020

Daniel Budzynski
Date of Ordination:
Pastoral Assignments:
Newman Parish, Eau Claire
Newman Parish, Stevens Point
Substantiated Allegations: Multiple (per Archdiocese of Milwaukee)
Current Status: Laicized October, 2004
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020

Orville Munie
Date of Ordination:
Pastoral Assignments:
St. Joseph, Arkansaw
Substantiated Allegations: Unspecified (whether single or multiple per Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate [Central Province])
Current Status: Deceased - 1993
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020
Joseph Smetana

Date of Ordination:
Pastoral Assignments:
St. Henry, Eau Galle
Substantiated Allegations: Unspecified (whether single or multiple per Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph [Midwest Capuchins])
Current Status: Permanently Removed from Ministry
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020

Francis Zimmerer

Date of Ordination:
Pastoral Assignments:
St. James, Amherst
St. Kilian, Blenker – St. Joseph Hospital, Chippewa Falls
St. John the Baptist, Edgar
St. Stephen, Stevens Point
Veterans Administration Hospital, Tomah
Substantiated Allegations: Unspecified (whether single or multiple per Diocese of Fort Worth)
Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020