Priests Who Have Served in the Diocese of Owensboro Against Whom A Substantiated Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor Has Been Made

For purposes of this list, an allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor by a priest is substantiated when there is probable cause for believing the claim is true. The following may be considered as evidence of probable cause: 1) admission of guilt by the accused; 2) accused does not contest the allegation; 3) guilty finding rendered by a court; 4) finding rendered by an investigative process shows cause for believing the allegation is true on an objective basis.

Priests ordained for the Diocese of Owensboro

This section contains the names of priests who were ordained for the Diocese of Owensboro against whom was made at least one substantiated allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor occurring within the Diocese of Owensboro.

Baker, Gerald
Diocese/Order: Owensboro

DOB: 1-25-57

Date of Ordination: 5-21-83

Date of Death:

Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:

83-85: St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

85-87: St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville with responsibilities at Trinity High School

87-89: Immaculate Conception, Earlington; Holy Cross, Providence; Resurrection, Dawson Springs

89-03: Sts. Peter & Paul, Hopkinsville

03-12: St. Ann, Morganfield

12-16: St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville

13-16: St. John, Fordsville

Clerical State: Removed from public ministry 2016.

Allegation(s): Three allegations deemed substantiated by the Diocesan Review Board.

Greenwell, Paul

Diocese/Order: Owensboro (originally from Archdiocese of Louisville until Owensboro established in 1937)
DOB: 10-10-1896

Date of Ordination: 6-2-1928

Date of Death: 11-24-1964

Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:

1932-47: St. Augustine, Reed

1947-56: St. Peter Waverly

1956: Retired to Albuquerque, NM

Clerical State: deceased 1964

Allegation(s): Multiple allegations from the 1940’s and 1950’s deemed substantiated.

Hancock, Walter

Diocese/Order: Owensboro

DOB: 10-23-1920

Date of Ordination: 5-27-1947

Date of Death: 3-2-2012

Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:

1947-49: St. Anthony, Browns Valley

1949-1952: Immaculate Conception, Hawesville

1952-1959: St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville
1959-1965: St. Anthony, Peonia
1965-72: St. Alphonsus
1972-1983: St. Jerome, Fancy Farm
1983-1989: St. Sebastian, Calhoun
1989-1992: Sacred Heart, Russellville
1995: Allowed to retire
1998: Administrator at Holy Guardian Angels Parish in Irvington


Allegation(s): Multiple allegations deemed substantiated.

Henninger, Gilbert

Diocese/Order: Owensboro
DOB: 12-18-1907
Date of Ordination: 5-22-1937
Date of Death: 3-5-1990

Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:
6/27/37 – 8/16/37: St. Peter, Stanley
8/16/37-9/4/37: St. Rose, Cloverport
1937-38: St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

1939-41: Chaplain at St. Francis Academy, Owensboro

1941-43: student in Ottawa, Canada

1943-62: Chaplain to Ursulines at Mt. St. Joseph

1962-82: St. Martin, Rome

**Clerical State:** deceased 1990

**Allegation(s):** Multiple allegations received after his death, but deemed substantiated.

### Meredith, John

**Diocese/Order:** Owensboro

**DOB:** 12-1-1954

**Date of Ordination:** 1-12-1980

**Date of Death:**

**Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:**

Jan. 1980 – May 1980: St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

June 1980-June 1983: St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville


June 1988 – June 1995: Christ the King, Madisonville
June 1995 – June 2008: Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro

June 2008 – Nov. 2013: Blessed Mother, Owensboro

**Clerical State:** Removed from public ministry in 2013.

**Allegation(s):** One allegation deemed substantiated by the Diocesan Review Board.

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**Piskula, Louis**

**Diocese/Order:** Owensboro

**DOB:** 1-6-1940

**Date of Ordination:** 5-10-1975

**Date of Death:** 10-11-2018

**Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:**

1975-77: St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

1977-82: Blessed Mother, Owensboro

1982-85: St. Leo Murray and Chaplain at Newman Center in Murray

1985-89: St. John the Evangelist, Paducah


**Clerical State:** Removed from public ministry in 2002. Deceased 2018.

**Allegation(s):** Six allegations deemed substantiated. In 2014, he was convicted of child sexual abuse and sentenced to prison.
Speaks, John

**Diocese/Order:** Owensboro

**DOB:** 5-25-1947

**Date of Ordination:** 6-8-1974

**Date of Death:**

**Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:**

1974-77: Blessed Mother, Owensboro

1977-81: St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

1981-82: St. Sebastian, Calhoun and St. Charles, Livermore

1982-83: Christ the King, Madisonville

2/83 – 6/83: St. Alphonsus, Daviess County


1987-1989: Holy Name, Henderson

1989 – 1994: Hospital Chaplain, Owensboro Daviess County Hospital & Mercy Hospital, Owensboro


**Clerical State:** Removed from public ministry in 2002.

**Allegation(s):** One allegation deemed substantiated.
Wheatley, Carroll

Diocese/Order: Owensboro

DOB: 2-11-1945

Date of Ordination: 5-10-1975

Date of Death: 10-7-2013

Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:

6/75-8/75: St. Mary, Whitesville

1975-81: Chaplain/Teacher: Trinity High School, Whitesville

1977-81: St. William & St. Lawrence, Knottsville

1981-82: St. Francis de Sales, Paducah

1982-84: St. Mary, LaCenter

1985-2011: Chaplain in U.S. Navy


Allegation(s): Two allegations deemed substantiated.

Wieder, Henry

Diocese/Order: Owensboro

DOB: 9-15-1962
Priests from another diocese or religious order

This section contains the names of priests either from another diocese or from a religious order who at one time served in the Diocese of Owensboro and against whom was made at least one substantiated allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor occurring within the Diocese.

Alexander, Joseph, OSB

DOB:

Diocese/Order: OSB (Order of Saint Benedict). Later became a priest of Diocese of Lafayette, LA.
Pilger, Joseph

**Diocese/Order:** Covington, KY

**DOB:** ~1925

**Date of Ordination:** 1955

**Date of Death:** December 2003

**Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:**

1963: St. William, Knottsville

1964 – 8/30/65: St. Ann, Morganfield


February 1967: St. Jerome, Fancy Farm

August 1967: Immaculate Conception, Earlington

8/67 – 1/69: Holy Name, Henderson
1/69 – 11/27/71: St. Francis Borgia in Sturgis, St. Ambrose in Henshaw and St. William in Marion

12/9/72 – 6/29/76: Cathedral in Owensboro

**Clerical State:** deceased 2003

**Allegation(s):** Thirteen allegations deemed substantiated. Convicted of child sexual abuse in 1993.

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**Telegdy, Louis A**

**Diocese/Order:** Precious Blood Priest (CPPS)

**DOB:**

**Date of Ordination:** 1942

**Date of Death:** 1995

**Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:**

1972-74: St. Francis Borgia, Sturgis

1974-76: Sacred Heart, Russellville

1976-78: St. Pius X, Calvert City

**Clerical State:** Deceased 1995

**Allegation(s):** One allegation received in the Diocese of Owensboro after his death. Three allegations in the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa deemed substantiated.

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**Waldruff, Raymond**
Diocese/Order: Franciscan Third Order Regular (TOR)

DOB: 4-13-1928

Date of Ordination: 7-25-1953

Date of Death: 3-25-1985

Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:

8/31/67–6/15/68: St. Jerome Parish in Fancy Farm; St. Charles in Bardwell; & St. Denis in Fancy Farm

6/15/68 – 8/15/68: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Owensboro


Allegation(s): Five allegations received; at least two deemed substantiated.

Allegations Which Occurred Outside the Diocese of Owensboro

This section contains the names of priests who were ordained for the Diocese of Owensboro, as well as priests from another diocese who at one time served within the Diocese of Owensboro, and against whom was made at least one substantiated allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor occurring outside the Diocese of Owensboro.

Haas, Paul F.

Diocese/Order: Nashville
**Adelbert “Del” Holmes**

**Diocese/Order:** Glenmary Home Missioners (GHM)

**DOB:** 6/25/1925

**Date of Ordination:** 6/1/1963

**Date of Death:** 9/20/2013

**Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:**

1977-1988: St. Mary, Franklin and Christ the King, Scottsville

**Clerical State:** deceased 2013
**Allegation(s):** One allegation in the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia. No allegations received in the Diocese of Owensboro.

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**Odom-Green, William**

**Diocese/Order:** Owensboro

**DOB:** 5/25/1959

**Date of Ordination:** 5/25/1991

**Date of Death:**

**Pastoral Assignments in the Diocese of Owensboro:**

- June 1994 – June 1995: St. Francis de Sales & Rosary Chapel, Paducah
- Dec. 1997 – April 1999: Faculties granted by Diocese of Oakland, CA
- April 1999: Faculties removed by Diocese of Oakland

**Clerical State:** Removed from public ministry in 1999.

**Allegation(s):** One allegation in the Diocese of Oakland, California in 1999. Convicted and sentenced to prison. No allegations received in the Diocese of Owensboro.

*Added April 26, 2019.*
In a spirit of ongoing transparency, as new information is received in the future, it will be added to www.owensborodiocese.org/accountability.

To report suspected abuse, call the Kentucky Child Protection Hot Line: 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331 (Toll Free) or contact your local Commonwealth Attorney.

To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church, please call:

Louanne Payne  
Pastoral Assistance Coordinator  
270-852-8380 (English)

Nuria Elizondo  
Coordinador de Asistencia Pastoral  
270-880-8360 (Español)