LIST OF SUBSTANTIATED CLAIMS OF CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE OF OR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT WITH A MINOR

Mon, 12/03/2018 - 5:31pm admin

Catholic Voice

Section 1: Substantiated allegations of misconduct with and/or the abuse of a minor which took place after the implementation of Safe Environment standards in 2002
John Fiala
Affiliation: Omaha
Date of Act(s): 2008
Reports: Diocese and LE: 2014
Description: Sexual abuse, two victims
Parish assignments: Papillion, St. Columbkille; Norfolk, Sacred Heart; Omaha, St. Joan of Arc; Omaha, St. Peter; Omaha, Christ the King; Spencer, St. Mary; Wisner, St. Joseph; Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity.

Deacon Emilio Morales Jordan
Affiliation: Extern, Diocese of Zacapa (Guatemala)
Date of Act(s): 2000-2002
Reports: Diocese and LE: 2003
Description: Concerns about misconduct rose to level for referral to LE.

Francis Nigli
Affiliation: Omaha
Date of Act(s): 2013
Reports: Diocese and LE: 2013
Status: Removed from public ministry in June 2018 for additional misconduct with a young adult, subsequent to this allegation.
Description: Concerns of misconduct rose to level for referral to LE. After professional assessment, was not prohibited from ministry.
Parish assignments: Omaha, St. Vincent de Paul; Papillion, St. Columbkille; O'Neill, St. Patrick; Amelia, St. Joseph; Omaha, St. Wenceslaus.

Andrew Syring
Affiliation: Omaha
Date of Act(s): 2013 and early 2014
Reports: Diocese and LE: 2009, 2014
Status: Left priestly ministry by resignation in October 2018
Description: Disputed; rose to level for LE referral regarding concerns of misconduct. Multiple allegations. After professional assessment, was not prohibited from ministry.

Parish assignments: Schuyler, Divine Mercy; Omaha, St. Bernard; Omaha, St. Wenceslaus; West Point, St. Mary; Monterey, St. Boniface; Aloys, St. Aloysius; St. Charles, St. Anthony

Deacon Duane Thome
Affiliation: Omaha
Date of Act(s): 2016-2018
Reports: Diocese and LE: 2018
Status: Removed in June 2018
Description: Disputed; Rose to level for LE referral regarding concerns of misconduct.

Section 2: Substantiated allegations of the abuse of a minor which took place prior to 2002.

Robert Allgaier
Affiliation: Omaha
Date of Act(s): Prior to 2001
Reports: Diocese and LE: 2001
Richard Arkfeld

Affiliation: Omaha

Date of Act(s): 1980s and prior

Reports: Diocese: 1980s, 2010, 2014, 2018. No LE report was made, as no individual minor was named. However, the unnamed reports are consistent and the claims of abuse are considered to be substantiated.

Status: Retired and deceased, 1996

Description: Sexual abuse. The total number of victims is unknown.

Parish assignments: Omaha, St. Rose; Atkinson, St. Joseph; Omaha, Holy Cross; Clyde, St. Patrick; Lynch, Assumption; Niobrara, St. William; Ewing, St. Peter of Alcantara; Randolph, St. Jane Frances de Chantal; St. Charles, St. Anthony; Coleridge, St. Michael; Belden, St. Mary; Newcastle, St. Peter; Ponca, St. Joseph.

John Buckson

Affiliation: Omaha

Date of Act(s): Prior to 1994

Reports: Diocese: 1994

Status: Resigned, 2002

Description: Sexual abuse

Parish assignments: Omaha, Our Lady of Guadalupe; Omaha, St. Francis of Assisi; Omaha, St. Agnes; Omaha, Our Lady of Guadalupe; Schuyler, St. Augustine.

Donald Cleary
**Franklin Dvorak**

**Affiliation:** Omaha  
**Date of Act(s):** 1970-1972  
**Reports:** Diocese and LE: 2012  
**Status:** Removed in 2012; Living life of prayer and penance  
**Description:** Sexual abuse  
**Parish assignments:** Norfolk, Sacred Heart; O'Neill, St. Patrick; Spencer, St. Mary; Cleridge, St. Michael; Mission of Belden; Hartington, Holy Trinity; Omaha, St. Wenceslaus; Omaha, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

**John Feeney**

**Affiliation:** Extern, Diocese of Green Bay  
**Date of Act(s):** 1962-1963  
**Reports:** Diocese and LE: 2012  
**Status:** Removed from ministry by Diocese of Green Bay, 1986. Laicized, 2005.  
**Description:** Sexual abuse
John Fiala

**Affiliation:** Omaha

**Date of Act(s):** 1984-1986


**Description:** Sexual abuse, two victims

**Parish assignments:** Papillion, St. Columbkille; Norfolk, Sacred Heart; Omaha, St. Joan of Arc; Omaha, St. Peter; Omaha, Christ the King; Spencer, St. Mary; Wisner, St. Joseph; Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity.

Joseph Finch

**Affiliation:** Omaha

**Date of Act(s):** Several years, beginning in 1971


**Description:** Sexual abuse

**Parish assignments:** Omaha, Our Lady of Lourdes; Boys Town, Immaculate Conception (Dowd Chapel); Archdiocese of the Military Services; Diocese of Albany.

James Gaughan

**Affiliation:** Extern, Diocese of Mandeville

**Date of Act(s):** Uncertain

**Reports:** Diocese: 2003

**Status:** Left Archdiocese of Omaha for the Diocese of Mandeville, 1999. Deceased, 2009
**Description:** Sexual abuse. This case was referred to the Diocese of Mandeville.

**Parish assignments:** Omaha, St. Pius X; Hartington, Holy Trinity; Bellevue, St. Bernadette; Omaha, St. Thomas More; Duncan, St. Stanislaus; Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica

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**Edward Gill**

**Affiliation:** Omaha

**Date of Act(s):** 1962, 1963-1964

**Reports:** Diocese: 2004

**Status:** Retired, 1999. Deceased, 2006

**Description:** Sexual abuse

**Parish assignments:** Omaha, St. Peter; Coleridge, St. Michael; Norfolk, Sacred Heart; Omaha, St. Agnes; Plainview, St. Paul; Butte, Sts. Peter & Paul; Madison, St. Leonard; Atkinson, St. Joseph; Central City, St. Michael; Stanton, St. Peter; Osmond, St. Mary of the Seven Dolors; St. Edward, St. Edward.

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**Tom Glennon**

**Affiliation:** Extern

**Date of Act(s):** 1980-1991

**Reports:** Diocese: 2018

**Status:** Retired; Left NE 2018

**Description:** Sexual abuse

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**Joseph Henry**

**Affiliation:** Extern

**Date of Act(s):** 1961-1962

**Reports:** Diocese and LE: 2012
Status: Deceased

**Description:** Posthumous; Sexual abuse

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**Daniel Herek**

**Affiliation:** Omaha

**Date of Act(s):** 1970s through 1990s

**Reports:** Diocese and LE: Multiple

**Status:** Removed, 1998; Prison, 1998; Laicized, 2006

**Description:** Child pornography and sexual abuse; Number of victims is unknown.

**Parish assignments:** Omaha, Assumption; Omaha, Christ the King; Omaha, St. Joan of Arc; Omaha, Mary Our Queen; Omaha, St. Peter; Omaha, St. Bernard; Coleridge, St. Michael; Belden, St. Mary; Beemer, Holy Cross; Omaha, St. Ann; Omaha, St. Richard.

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**Joseph Hiepvan Ho**

**Affiliation:** Extern, Archdiocese of Sydney

**Date of Act(s):** 1979-1980

**Reports:** Diocese: 1990, 2010; Archdiocese of Sydney notified in 2010

**Status:** Left Archdiocese of Omaha in 1992. Active, according to the website of the Archdiocese of Sydney.

**Description:** 1990: Boundary violation; 2010: Sexual abuse

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**Michael Kelly**

**Affiliation:** Omaha

**Date of Act(s):** 1956-1996

**Reports:** Diocese: 1998; LE: 2004

**Status:** Retired, 1995; Removed, 2002; Deceased, 2003
**Description:** Sexual abuse

**Parish assignments:** Elgin, St. Boniface; Omaha, St. Cecilia Cathedral; Omaha, St. Peter; Randolph, St. Jane Frances de Chantal; Battle Creek, St. Patrick; Neligh, St. Francis of Assisi; Clearwater, St. Teresa of Avila; Laurel, St. Mary; Genoa, St. Rose of Lima; Lyons, St. Joseph

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**Daniel Kenney**  
**Affiliation:** Extern  
**Date of Act(s):** 1985-1987  
**Reports:** Diocese and LE: 2012  
**Status:** Removed, 2002  
**Description:** Sexual abuse. This case was overseen by the former Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus.

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**Jay Kruse**  
**Affiliation:** Omaha  
**Date of Act(s):** 2004  
**Reports:** Diocese and LE: 2004  
**Status:** Removed, 2004; Laicized, 2006  
**Description:** Child pornography

**Parish assignments:** Fremont, St. Patrick; Roncalli High School; Omaha, St. Pius X; Wynot, Sacred Heart; St. James, Sts. Philip & James; Hartington, Cedar Catholic High School; Ewing, St. Peter of Alcantara; Deloit Township, St. John; Elgin, Pope John XXIII High School; Verdigre, St. Wenceslaus; Niobrara, St. William; O'Neill, St. Patrick; Amelia, St. Joseph.

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**Larry Toms Kulangara**  
**Affiliation:** Extern  
**Date of Act(s):** 1995-2000
**Reports:** Diocese: 2000; LE: 2004 and 2017

**Status:** Served in Archdiocese of Omaha from 1997-2000. Returned to his community in 2000. Presumed to be active in the Nigeria-India Province of the SSP. This matter was referred to the Holy See in 2017.

**Description:** Sexual abuse, two victims

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**Duane Lukes**

**Affiliation:** Omaha

**Date of Act(s):** 1964-1990s


**Status:** Deceased, 1998

**Description:** Sexual abuse, multiple victims

**Parish assignments:** Omaha, St. Stanislaus; Dodge, St. Wenceslaus; Omaha, St. Pius X; Lindsay, Holy Family; Omaha, St. Ann; Norfolk, Sacred Heart; Niobrara, St. William; St. Edward, St. Edward; Osmond, St. Mary of the Seven Dolors; Norfolk, Immaculata Monastery.

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**Aloysius McMahon**

**Affiliation:** Omaha

**Date of Act(s):** 1970-1975

**Reports:** Diocese: 1998; LE: 2004

**Status:** Retired, 1997; Deceased, 2011

**Description:** Disputed; Sexual abuse, two victims

**Parish assignments:** Omaha, St. Wenceslaus; Boys Town, Immaculate Conception (Dowd Chapel); Pierce, St. Joseph; Wisner, St. Joseph; Omaha, St. Frances Cabrini; Omaha, St. Joan of Arc; Omaha, St. Peter

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**Mark Merkel**
Anthony Palmese

Affiliation: Extern

Date of Act(s): 1984-1985

Reports: Diocese and LE: 2013

Status: Deceased, 2012

Description: Posthumous; Sexual abuse

Roland Peschel

Affiliation: Omaha

Date of Act(s): 1967

Reports: Diocese: 1993 and 2010; LE: 2010

Status: Retired and removed, 2010

Description: 1993: Disputed; Sexual abuse. 2010: Admitted; Sexual abuse

Parish assignments: Dodge, St. Wenceslaus; Creighton, St. Ludger; Omaha, St. Mary; Omaha, St. Bernard; Omaha, St. James; Omaha, St. Margaret Mary; Omaha, St. Bernard; Randolph, St. Jane Frances de Chantal; O'Neill, St. Patrick; Amelisa, St. Joseph; Emmett, Epiphany; Omaha, St. Bernard; Omaha, St. Bernardette; Fremont, St. Patrick; Dodge, St. Wenceslaus; Olean, Sacred Heart; Ralston, St. Gerald.
Anthony Petrusic

Affiliation: Omaha
Date of Act(s): 1970s
Reports: Diocese: 2002
Status: Retired, 1994; Removed, 2002; Deceased, 2010
Description: Sexual abuse, two victims
Parish assignments: Omaha, Sts. Peter & Paul; Omaha, Ryan High School; Omaha, St. Catherine Hospital; Omaha, Notre Dame Convent; Omaha, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Deacon Tom Purnell

Affiliation: Omaha
Date of Act(s): Pre-1991
Reports: Diocese and LE: 1991
Status: Presumed deceased
Description: Sexual abuse, two victims

John Rizzo

Affiliation: Omaha
Date of Act(s): 1962, 1972
Status: Removed, 2002; Retired, 2003
Description: Sexual abuse, two victims. 1972 allegation disputed.
Parish assignments: Omaha, St. Ann; Omaha, Holy Cross; Boys Town, Immaculate Conception; Dixon, St. Anne; Genoa, St. Rose; Ponca, St. Joseph; Waterbury, Immaculate Conception; Menominee, St. Boniface; Stanton, St. Peter; Creighton, St. Ludger; Clarks, St. Peter; Omaha, St. Peter.
Perry Robinson

Affiliation: Extern

Date of Act(s): 1980s

Reports: Diocese: Late 2011; LE: Unknown—Conduct alleged to have occurred in Milwaukee

Status: Removed in early 2012

Description: Sexual abuse. This case was overseen by the former Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus.

Al Salanitro

Affiliation: Omaha

Date of Act(s): 1990-1994

Reports: Diocese and LE: 2011, 2012

Status: Removed, 2012; Laicized, 2013

Description: Sexual abuse, three victims

Parish assignments: Omaha, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; Omaha, Holy Cross; Laurel, St. Mary; Dixon, St. Anne; Blair, St. Francis Borgia; Bellevue, St. Bernadette.

Thomas Sellentin

Affiliation: Omaha

Date of Act(s): 1968-1989

Reports: Diocese: 1968-present; LE: 2018

Status: Removed, 2002

Description: Sexual abuse, 20 to 35 victims

Parish assignments: Omaha. St. Stanislaus; Elgin, St. Boniface; Omaha, St. Joan of Arc; West Point, St. Mary; Lindsay, Holy Family; Omaha, Blessed Sacrament; Spencer, St. Mary; Fullerton, St. Peter;
Menominee, St. Boniface; Howells, Sts. Peter & Paul and St. John; North Bend, St. Charles Borromeo; Snyder, St. Leo the Great.

John Starostka

Affiliation: Omaha

Date of Act(s): 1972-1974, 2000


Status: Removed, 2002; Deceased, 2012

Description: Sexual abuse

Parish assignments: Omaha, St. Francis of Assisi; Creigthon, St. Ludger; Omaha, St. Philip Neri; Omaha, St. Stanislaus; Platte Center, St. Joseph; Newcastle, St. Peter; Omaha, St. Cecilia Cathedral; Cedar Rapids, St. Anthony; Primrose, St. Mary.

Robert Steinhausen

Affiliation: Omaha

Date of Act(s): 1982-1986

Reports: Diocese: 2008

Status: Deceased, 1993

Description: Sexual abuse

Parish assignments: Omaha, Holy Cross; South Sioux City, St. Michael; Spencer, St. Mary; Norfolk, Sacred Heart; Papillion, St. Columbkille.

Section 3: Activity after leaving the Archdiocese of Omaha or after leaving ministry

Patrick Henry

Affiliation: Omaha
Date of Act(s): 1970s-1980s

Reports: Diocese of Cleveland: ca. 2008

Status: Transferred to the Diocese of Cleveland, 1997

Description: Sexual abuse. This case was overseen by the Diocese of Cleveland.

Parish assignments: Papillion, St. Columbkille; South Sioux City, St. Michael; Diocese of Cleveland

Section 4: Activity Before Entering Formation or Seminary

Deacon Robert Pickett

Affiliation: Omaha

Date of Act(s): 1978


Status: Removed, 2016

Description: Sexual abuse

Jeff Zyla

Affiliation: Omaha

Date of Act(s): 1978-1981

Reports: Diocese and LE: 2003

Status: Removed, 2003

Description: Sexual abuse

Parish assignments: South Sioux City, St. Michael; Omaha, St. Leo; Petersburg, St. John the Baptist; Raeville, St. Bonaventure; Wisner, St. Joseph; West Point, Central High School; Aloys, St. Aloysius.

Glossary

Affiliation: The diocese or religious community to which a cleric belongs
Description: Type of behavior

Extern: A priest of a religious order or a diocese other than the Archdiocese of Omaha

Laicized: Permanently removed from the clerical state by the authority of the Holy See

LE: Law enforcement

Minor: Person under 19 years of age

Posthumous: A claim received after the death of the alleged perpetrator

Removed: Faculties for public ministry were withdrawn

Report: A communication of a claim to archdiocesan officials and/or law enforcement

Sexual Abuse: Unwanted sexual contact, including any of the following: touching over and/or under clothing, penetration, sexual communication

Status: Eventual outcome of ministry

Substantiated: A claim supported by sufficient evidence and/or information so that the Archdiocese believes it is true

Section: NEWS
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