

Clergy with Substantiated Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse

Date of Release: January 18, 2020

Downloaded on January 22, 2020 from:

<https://diolc.org/safe-environment/clergy-disclosures/>

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

Current Status: Deceased – Jan. 3, 2006

Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020

Eugene Comiskey

Date of Ordination: December 8, 1945

Pastoral Assignments:

St. Joseph, Adams – St. Ann, Brooks – St. Methodius, Pilot Knob
 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, Poniadowksi

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 Hertenberg

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

Current Status: Deceased – Oct. 7, 1978

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, Poniadowksi

St. Joseph, Rock Falls

St. Patrick, Sparta

St. Stephen, Stevens Point

Holy Name, Wausau

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)

Current Status: Deceased – Jan. 23, 1983

Date Added / Last Modified: January 18, 2020