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Diocese adds 2 clergymen to credibly accused list

BY DAVID SINGLETON / PUBLISHED: OCTOBER 11, 2019

The Diocese of Scranton on Thursday placed two more clergymen on its list of individuals who have been accused of sexually abusing children.

With the addition of the Rev. Albert E. Oldfield and the Rev. James J. Gormley, S.J., both of whom are deceased, the number of "credibly accused individuals" identified by the diocese rose to 83.

The diocese said the additions are a fulfillment of a pledge by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera to be open and transparent in the way the diocese handles accusations of child sexual abuse following the release of the statewide investigating grand jury report in August 2018.

"As a result, the diocese announces two names have been added to its list of clergy that have a credible claim of sexual abuse against a minor," the diocese said in a statement.

Oldfield and Gormley are the first new names to appear on the list since late last year.

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TIMES-SHAMROCK FILE St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. The recent additions of two clergymen brings the number of individuals 'credibly accused' of sexually abusing children to 83.

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The diocese disclosed its original list of 70 names to coincide with the release of the grand jury report, which detailed decades of abuse by Roman Catholic clergy and the steps church leaders took to cover it up in the Diocese of Scranton and five other Pennsylvania dioceses.

It added 11 more people to the list in December, including a deceased Religious Teachers Filippini sister who remains the only woman named.

Since then, additional abuse survivors have come forward, the diocese said. A review was completed in consultation with the Diocesan Independent Review Board, resulting in the addition of Oldfield and Gormley.

Gormley is the 10th member of a religious order not directly associated with the diocese to join the list, which also now includes 69 diocesan priests like Oldfield and four lay people.

The diocese will not release specific details related to the abuse accusations, including when and where the incidents happened, out of respect for the privacy of the people who reported them, spokesman Eric Deabill said.

However, he confirmed the diocese received information with respect to Oldfield from multiple individuals after the release of the grand jury report.

Oldfield, who died Aug. 22 at age 85, was ordained as a priest in the diocese in 1959, and served in a variety of parish and educational settings, mostly in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, in the decades after.

Among his assignments in the 1970s were part-time catechist at Bishop Hoban High School and director of campus ministry at Wilkes University, both in Wilkes-Barre, and director of religious formation at Sacred Heart High School in Carbondale, according to a list released by the diocese.

His last assignment, which he received in 2009, was pastor emeritus at St. Mary of Czestochowa in Scranton.

Gormley, who died in 2005 at age 80, had two assignments at Scranton Preparatory School that were sandwiched around his ordination in 1954.

The first was from 1948 to 1951, and the second was from 1956 to 1959, after which he moved on to St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia.

Gormley was the subject of multiple allegations of sexual abuse dating to the 1960s and 1970s in Philadelphia and New Jersey, according to information released by Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus.

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Deabill said the diocese will continue to alert the public in the event more individuals are added to the list.

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570-348-9132

Albert E. Oldfield

Born: Nov. 26, 1933

Ordained: May 23, 1959

Died: Aug. 22, 2019

Assignments:

n St. Philomena, Hawley (assistant pastor, pro tempore), June 3, 1959.

n St. Joseph's Hospital, Carbondale (chaplain), Oct. 1, 1959.

n Boys' Club of Scranton Camp at Dunn Lake (chaplain), July 1960.

n St. Pius X Chapel, Royal (chaplain), August 1961.

n European tour of the Carbondale Chapter of the Marywood College Alumnae Association (chaplain), June 1966.

n Nativity of Our Lord, Scranton (assistant pastor), Sept. 14, 1966.

n Scranton Chapter of the Catholic Nurses' Guild (moderator), Sept. 10, 1968.

n St. Nicholas, Wilkes-Barre (assistant pastor), May 31, 1972.

n Bishop Hoban High School, Wilkes-Barre (part-time catechist), Sept. 5, 1972.

n Wilkes College Campus Ministry, Wilkes-Barre (director), Sept. 3, 1975.

n Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Wilkes-Barre (assistant pastor), May 28, 1976.

n St. Denis, Glen Lyon (pastor), Sept. 7, 1976.

n Corpus Christi, Montdale (pastor), May 26, 1977.

n Sacred Heart High School, Carbondale (director of religious formation) Sept. 6, 1977.

n St. Boniface, Williamsport (pastor), Feb. 7, 1984.

n St. Mary of Czestochowa, Scranton (pastor), July 9, 1996.



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n Holy Family Residence, Scranton (chaplain), Jan. 20, 2009.

n St. Mary of Czestochowa, Scranton (pastor emeritus), July 15, 2009.

James J. Gormley, S.J.

Born: 1924

Ordained: 1954

Died: 2005

Assignments:

n Scranton Preparatory School, Scranton, 1948-1951.

n Scranton Preparatory School, Scranton, 1956-1959.

n St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Philadelphia, 1959-1960.

n Novitiate of St. Isaac Jogues, Wernersville, 1960-1965.

n St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Philadelphia, 1965-1972.

n Georgetown Preparatory School, North Bethesda, Maryland, 1973-1975.

n St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Philadelphia, 1975-1981.

n Holy Rosary Catholic Academy, San Bernadino, California, 1982-1983.

n Waldron Academy, Merion Station, 1983-1985.

n Holy Child Infirmary and School, Rosemont, 1985-1993.

n Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, West Virginia, 1993-1997.

n St. Jude Church, Radford, Virginia, 1998-1999.

n Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, Virginia, 1999-2000.

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