



CATHOLIC DIOCESE of JACKSON

Clergy and Religious credibly accused of abuse

This report contains the names of all clergy credibly accused of sexual abuse of which the Diocese of Jackson is aware. An accusation is considered credible when it has been investigated, presented to our Independent Fitness Review Board and deemed to be specific and believable. Civil authorities determine if an accusation is a crime. Not everyone on this list was charged or convicted of a crime.

None of these men are still in active ministry.

The list includes the names of the priests, a list of locations where they served, when the abuse is reported to have happened and when it was reported to the diocese. You may notice a gap between the abuse date and the reporting date. The diocese may not have been aware of the abuse before a priest was moved to another parish. Not all victims report their abuse right away. This is why the work the church is doing to remove the stigma of reporting is so critical. The sooner we know about an allegation, the sooner we can take action to protect those vulnerable to abuse.

In a few cases, psychologists of that time treated a priest and deemed him safe to go back into ministry. While the science of that time believed such treatment could be effective, we now know this is not the case; and every priest, deacon, lay employee or volunteer who abuses a minor today will be permanently removed from ministry.

The Diocese of Jackson presented all of its cases to the Mississippi Attorney General's Office in 2002 and again in 2019 in an effort to ensure transparency and a spirit of cooperation. When the diocese receives new credible reports, those are presented to the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services, law enforcement or the district attorney in the place where the abuse is alleged to have taken place.

You may also notice reports from what is now the Diocese of Biloxi. Look [here](#) for information on why and definitions of the different kinds of clergy and ministers as well as information on our current Safe Environment Program.

The Diocese of Jackson has records for close to 1,000 priests who served here during its 180-year history. This investigation examined the files dating back to 1924.

All new credible reports of abuse will be added to this list.

If you have been abused by a member of the clergy or an employee of the church, we want to hear from you. Contact our Safe Environment Coordinator, Vickie Carollo at (601) 960-8471.

[Introduction en Espanol](#)

**indicates someone who was not a priest, but a lay member of a religious order

Diocesan Priests:

Edward Balser

Born: 1929 Ordained: 1956

Current Status: Retired 2003, Deceased 2019

Assignments: St. Peter, Jackson; St. Jude, Pearl; St. Paul, Flowood; Holy Family, Jackson

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1950s – Chatawa

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1991

Thomas Boyce

Born: 1941 Ordained: 1966

Current Status: Removed 2002; Deceased 2002

Assignments: St. Mary, Batesville; St. Jude, Pearl; All Saints, Belzoni; St. Michael, Vicksburg; St. Peter, Jackson; St. Alphonsus, Ocean Springs

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1972-1973 – Jackson

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2002

George Broussard

Born: 1935 Ordained: 1966

Current Status: Left Ministry 1975; Deceased 2007

Assignments: St. Clare, Waveland; St. Peter, Jackson; Diocesan Chancellor; St. John, Gulfport

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1969-1974 – multiple locations

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2002

Paul Canonici

Born: 1927 Ordained: 1957

Current Status: Retired 1998; removed from ministry – 2002; Deceased – 2020

Assignments: St. Joseph School, Jackson/Madison; St. Francis, Madison; Superintendent of Education; St. Joseph, Starkville; St. Joseph, Gluckstadt

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1983 – Madison area

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1997

Nelius Downing

Born: 1883 Ordained: 1914

Current Status: Deceased prior to accusation

Assignments: Sacred Heart, Canton; St. Patrick, Meridian; St. Mary, Natchez; Our Lady of the Gulf, Bay St. Louis; St. Elizabeth, Clarksdale; St. Michael, Biloxi;

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1939 – Meridian

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2002

Bernard Haddican

Born: 1933 Ordained: 1960

Current Status: Retired 1991; Deceased 1996

Assignments: Sacred Heart, Rosedale; Our Lady of Victories, Cleveland; St. Elizabeth, Clarksdale; St. Michael, Vicksburg; St. Mary, Shelby; St. John, Oxford; St. Joseph, Greenville; St. Richard, Jackson; Sacred Heart, Hattiesburg; Our Lady of the Gulf, Bay St. Louis; St. Mary, Natchez

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1964-84 – multiple locations

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1998/2002

Kenneth Harris

Born: 1912 Ordained: 1940

Current Status: Excardinated to Steubenville Diocese 1955; Deceased prior to accusation 1964

Assignments: St. Joseph, Greenville; St. James, Leland; St. Bernardine, San Bernardino, CA; St. Mary, Natchez, Sacred Heart, Hattiesburg; St. Paul, Vicksburg; St. Teresa, Chatawa

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1951 – Steubenville, Ohio

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1998/2003

Michael Irwin

Born: 1943 Ordained: 1970

Current Status: Deceased prior to accusation 1993

Assignments: St. Mary, Natchez; St. Paul, Vicksburg

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1975 – Vicksburg

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2005

James Kircher

Born: 1931 Ordained: 1963

Current Status: Removed from ministry 1987; Deceased 2007

Assignments: St. Benedict/ Immaculate Conception, Indianola; Sacred Heart, Canton; St. Mary, Shelby; St. Therese, Jackson; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lumberton (Seneca); Immaculate Heart of Mary, Greenwood; St. Paul, Vicksburg

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1978-82 – multiple locations

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1986/2002

John Leonard

Born: 1920 Ordained: 1948

Current Status: Deceased prior to accusation 2003

Assignments: St. Paul, Vicksburg; St. Francis, Shaw; St. Mary, Batesville; St. John, Sardis; Our Lady of Victories, Cleveland; All Saints, Belzoni; St. Mary, Yazoo City; Our Lady of the Gulf, Bay St. Louis

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1952-56 – Bay St. Louis

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2004

Paul Madden

Born: 1946 Ordained: 1970

Current Status: Retired; Incardinated in diocese in Peru

Assignments: Society of St. James, Peru; St. John, Crystal Springs; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Saltillo, Mexico; St. Mary, Natchez; Holy Family, Jackson; St. Alphonsus, Ocean Springs

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1973 – Ireland

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1993

Robert Olivier

Born: 1930 Ordained: 1957

Current Status: removed from ministry 2006 – Deceased – 2019

Assignments: St. Joseph, Gluckstadt; St. Peter, Jackson; St. Therese, Jackson; St. Joseph, Greenville; Sacred Heart, Hattiesburg

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1957-59 – Hattiesburg

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2006

Francis Reid

Born: 1925 Ordained: 1948

Current Status: Left ministry in 1970s; Deceased 1993

Assignments: St. Peter, Jackson; St. Joseph, Greenville; Assistant Chancellor; St. Jude, Pearl; St. James, Leland

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1963-65 – Leland

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2014

Kevin Reid

Born: 1934 Ordained: 1958

Current Status: Left ministry in 1976; Deceased

Assignments: Holy Trinity, Columbia; Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Greenwood; Our Lady of the Gulf, Bay St. Louis

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1961-66 – Bay St. Louis

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2002

Ivan Siekman

Born: 1946 Ordained: 1975

Current Status: Left ministry 1990; Faculties removed 2003

Assignments: Sacred Heart, Biloxi

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1972-73 – Bay St. Louis

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2003

Jack Smith

Born: 1941 Ordained: 1970

Current Status: Deceased prior to accusations

Assignments: St. Michael, Vicksburg; Our Lady of the Gulf, Bay St. Louis; St. Joseph, Starkville; St. Alphonsus, Ocean Springs; St. Joseph, Greenville

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1972 – 1980 multiple sites

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2003

James Taylor

Born: 1927 Ordained: 1954

Current Status: Retired prior to accusation; Deceased

Assignments: St. Mary, Woolmarket; St. Peter, Bassfield; Immaculate Conception, Laurel; St. Michael, Forest; St. Joseph, Woodville; St. Joseph, Greenville; St. Therese, Jackson; St. Paul, Vicksburg; Our Lady of the Gulf, Bay St. Louis; St. Mary, Yazoo City; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Biloxi; St. Mary, Jackson

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1962 – Woodville

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1998

Thomas Williams

Born: 1913 Ordained: 1940

Current Status: Deceased prior to accusation 1983

Assignments: Our Lady of Fatima, Biloxi; St. John, Gulfport; St. Francis, Brookhaven; St. Paul, Pass Christian; St. Mary, Natchez; St. Paul, Vicksburg

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1958 – Gulfport

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2002/2012

Extern Priests:

Daniel O'Hanlon – Diocese of Springfield, Ill.

Born: 1897 Ordained: 1923

Current Status: Deceased prior to accusation 1969

Assignments: St. Michael, Biloxi; St. Charles Borromeo, Picayune; St. Mary, Jackson

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1966-67 – Biloxi

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1993/2002

Permanent Deacons:

Richard Caldwell

Born: 1957 Ordained: 2016

Current Status: removed from ministry 2018

Assignments: St. Mary, Vicksburg

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1981 – Vicksburg

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2018

Religious Order members accused in Diocese of Jackson:

Cuthbert Bender, Order of St. Benedict

Born: 1913 Ordained: 1938

Current Status: Deceased prior to accusation 1968

Assignments: Annunciation, Columbus; St. James, Tupelo; St. Francis, Aberdeen; St. Teresa, Chatawa

Date(s) of alleged abuse: late 1950s – Aberdeen area

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2008

Tim Crowley, Congregation of the Holy Spirit

Born: 1917 Ordained: 1939

Current Status: Deceased prior to accusation

Assignments: St. Paul, Vicksburg; St. Teresa, Chatawa

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1968 – Chatawa

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2018

Thomas Dullard, Order of St. Augustine

Born: 1939 Ordained: 1965

Current Status: removed from ministry 1974; deceased

Assignments: Christ the King, Jackson; St. Joseph School, Jackson

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1973 – Jackson

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1973

Joseph Guidry, Society of the Divine Word

Born: 1926 Ordained: 1957

Current Status: removed from ministry 2004

Assignments: Sacred Heart, Greenville; St. Gabriel, Mound Bayou

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1980 – Greenville

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2004

Patrick Lee, Society of the Divine Word

Born: 1935 Ordained: 1967

Current Status: removed from ministry 1988

Assignments: St. Mary, Vicksburg; Immaculate Conception, Clarksdale; Sacred Heart, Greenville

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1988 – Vicksburg

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1988

Vincent MacDonald, Priests of the Sacred Heart

Born: 1931 Ordained: 1958

Current Status: removed from ministry 2002; deceased 2017

Assignments: Sacred Heart, Walls

Date(s) of alleged abuse: Early 1970s – Walls

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2002

Peter Richardson, Glenmary

Born: 1958 Ordained: 1986

Current Status: removed from Ministry 2006; Deceased 2014

Assignments: St. Francis, Aberdeen

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1987-90 – Aberdeen

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2014

Gerald Swift, Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity

Born: 1916 Ordained: 1946

Current Status: Deceased 2007

Assignments: Immaculate Conception, Camden; Annunciation, Kiln; Sacred Heart, Louisville

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1978 – Kosciusko

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2002

Vance Thorne, Society of the Divine Word

Born: 1921 Ordained: 1954

Current Status: removed from diocesan ministry 1987; Deceased 2004

Assignments: Holy Ghost, Jackson; St. Mary, Vicksburg

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1986

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1986

Don Lucas, Order of Friars Minor

Born: N/A

Current Status: Deceased

Assignments: St. Francis, Greenwood

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1998 – Greenwood

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2018

Paul West, Order of Friars Minor

Born: N/A

Current Status: removed from ministry; left the religious life

Assignments: St. Francis, Greenwood

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1993-98 – Greenwood

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1998/2018

Religious Order members accused elsewhere who served in Diocese of Jackson:

Nicholas Vic Bendillo, Brothers of the Sacred Heart

Born: 1922

Current Status: Deceased

Assignments: Vicksburg St. Aloysius H.S. (1950s)

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1964-1989

Date(s) abuse was reported: N/A

Ernest Hill, Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity

Born: 1922 Ordained: 1951

Current Status: suspended 1994; Deceased 2003

Assignments: Immaculate Conception, Camden; Annunciation, Kiln

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1992 – Indiana

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1994

Aedan Manning, Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity

Born: 1937 Ordained: 1963

Current Status: retired 2002; Deceased 2008

Assignments: St. John, Crystal Springs; St. Richard, Jackson; Diocesan Tribunal, Judicial Vicar; Diocesan Director of Permanent Diaconate

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1967 – New Jersey

Date(s) abuse was reported: 1991

Robert Poandl, Glenmary

Born: 1941 Ordained: 1968

Current Status: removed from ministry 2010; Deceased – 2019

Assignments: St. Francis, Aberdeen

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1991 – West Virginia

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2010

James Stein, Premonstratensians (Norbertines)

Born: 1950 Ordained: 1986

Current Status: removed from ministry 2003

Assignments: St. Joseph School, Madison; St. Moses the Black Priory, Raymond

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1988

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2003

Vincent Waiches, Society of the Divine Word

Born: 1919 Ordained: 1946

Current Status: Deceased 1995

Assignments: Holy Ghost, Jackson

Date(s) of alleged abuse: N/A – See [Catholic Diocese of Austin's list of accused clergy](#)

Date(s) abuse was reported: N/A

Bill Wright, Glenmary Brother

Born: 1952 Joined Glenmary: 1978

Status: Deceased. Left society in 2006

Dioceses served: Jackson (MS), Little Rock (AR), Nashville (TN), Owensboro

Extern Priests accused elsewhere who served in the Diocese of Jackson

Arnulfo Arandia – Ecuador

Born: 1956 Ordained: 1980

Current Status: Faculties removed 2002

Assignments: Diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1988 – Dade County, Florida

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2002

William Wiebler – Diocese of Davenport, Iowa

Born: 1928 Ordained: 1955

Current Status: Deceased 2006

Assignments: Worked for Sacred Heart League, Walls

Date(s) of alleged abuse: 1970s & 80s – Iowa

Date(s) abuse was reported: 2006

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of* JACKSON

237 East Amite
Jackson, MS 39201
P 601-969-1880



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