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 Berardino, 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**
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](https://jacksondiocese.org/offices/child-protection/clergy-and-religious-credibly-accused-of-abuse/)  
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) of 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) of abuse was reported: 2006