

Categories of Archdiocesan Clergy Accused of Sexual Abuse of a Child

A. Cases That Have Been Concluded Canonically, Either By Dismissal or Sentence to Life of Prayer and Penance, or Criminally, Either By Plea or Conviction.

This section contains the names of those members of the clergy of the Boston Archdiocese who have been found guilty of sexually abusing a child, either by the Church, the State, or both. In the case of criminal convictions, the cleric either has been convicted after a criminal trial or has pled guilty to a crime involving the sexual abuse of a child. In the case of canonical processes, the clerics whose names are included in this section either have been dismissed from the clerical state ("dismissed") at the end of a canonical process or have been assigned to a life of prayer and penance, with no ministry possible. The Church assigns priests to a life of prayer and penance where they are not suited to dismissal due to age or infirmity.

Name	Year Of Ordination	Status
Barrett, Robert E	1963	Assigned to Life of Prayer and Penance (2004); Deceased (2008)
Buchette, Anthony L	1957	Dismissed (2005)
Charest, Edmund P	1960	Dismissed (2015)
Coughlin, Richard T	1953; Excardinated to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (now Diocese of Orange) in 1971	Permanently Restricted
Crowley, Jr., Joseph I (Permanent Deacon)	1980	Pled Guilty to Criminal Charges (1999); Laicized (2006)
Dempsey, Thomas F	Ordained for the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1955; Incardinated into the Archdiocese of Boston in 1976	Pled Guilty to Criminal Charges in Wisconsin (1997); Deceased (1998)

PROTECTING CHILDREN

GENERAL INFORMATION

TAKING ACTION

RESOURCES

CATEGORIES OF ARCHDIOCESAN CLERGY ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD

CASES THAT HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED CANONICALLY, EITHER BY DISMISSAL OR SENTENCE TO LIFE OF PRAYER AND PENANCE, OR CRIMINALLY, EITHER BY PLEA OR CONVICTION.

CASES THAT HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED CRIMINALLY, EITHER BY PLEA OR CONVICTION.

CASES INVOLVING LIVING ARCHDIOCESAN CLERGY.

CASES INVOLVING PRIESTS ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD.

CASES INVOLVING DECEASED CLERGY.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

LIST OF UNSUBSTANTIATED CASES

REPORTING ABUSE BY CLERGY, ARCHDIOCESAN CLERGY, OR LAIC.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Name	Year Of Ordination	Status
Fay, Robert D	1967	Dismissed (2005); Deceased (2009)
Gale, Robert V	1968	Pled Guilty to Criminal Charges (2004); Laicized (2006)
Gaudreau, James E.	1969	Assigned to a Life of Prayer and Penance (2020)
Geoghan, John J	1962	Dismissed (1998); Convicted on Criminal Charges (2000); Deceased (2003)
Guthrie, Frederick L	1962	Pled Guilty to Criminal Charges (involving attempted solicitation of a minor over the Internet) (2004); Laicized (2010); Deceased (2024)
Hanlon, John R	1955	Convicted on Criminal Charges (1994); Laicized (2005); Deceased (2016)
Hurley, Paul W	1970	Convicted on Criminal Charges (2006); Dismissed (2006); Deceased (2024)
Iguabita-Rodriguez, Kelvin E	1999	Convicted on Criminal Charges (2003); Dismissed (2005)
Johnson, Harold J	1949	Assigned to Life of Prayer and Penance (2004); Deceased (2009)
Keane, John F	1969	Pled Guilty to Criminal Charges (2008); Dismissed (2009); Deceased (2021)
Kelley, Edward T	1968	Assigned to Life of Prayer and Penance (2005); Deceased (2011)
Lane, Bernard J	1960	Dismissed (2004); Deceased (2023)
Laurano, Anthony J	1950	Dismissed (2007); Deceased (2007)
Lyons, John P	1955	Dismissed (2020) ; Deceased (2020)
Maguire, Thomas H.	1976	Dismissed (2016)
Mahan, Paul J	1968	Dismissed (1998)
McLaughlin, Paul J	1955	Assigned to a Life of Prayer and Penance (2021); Deceased 2021
McMahon, Gerard T	1961	Pled Guilty to Criminal Charges (2006); Deceased (2013)
Menna, F. Dominic	1958	Assigned to a Life of Prayer and Penance (2016); Deceased (2025)
Murphy, Francis A	1957; Excardinated to the Archdiocese of Anchorage (1964)	Permanently Restricted; Deceased (2012)
Nyhan, W. James	1973	Pled Guilty to Criminal Charges (2006); Dismissed (2007)
O'Sullivan, Eugene M	1960	Pled Guilty to Criminal Charges (1984); Dismissed (2005); Deceased (2019)
Paquin, Ronald H	1973	Pled Guilty to Criminal Charges (2002); Laicized (2004)
Pelletier, Leonard E	1969	Dismissed (2019)

Name	Year Of Ordination	Status
Plourde, Raymond C	1958	Assigned to Life of Prayer and Penance (2004); Deceased (2013)
Rosenkranz, George J	1962	Dismissed (2006)
Shanley, Paul R	1960	Dismissed (2004); Convicted on Criminal Charges (2005); Deceased (2020)
Surette, C. Melvin	1956	Dismissed (2012)
Tague, Patrick J	1963	Dismissed (2006); Deceased (2022)
Tivnan, Paul J	1963	Assigned to Life of Prayer and Penance (2004)
Welsh, Joseph L	1968	Assigned to Life of Prayer and Penance (2004) Deceased (2019)

B. Cases That Have Been Concluded Canonically By Laicization.

Laicization under Church law is a process whereby the cleric voluntarily requests that he be separated from the clerical state. The laicization process, because it is voluntary, does not involve a determination of guilt for crimes involving the sexual abuse of children. Included in this section are the names of priests who have sought laicization after being accused of sexually abusing a minor.

Name	Year Of Ordination	Status
Balcom, Gary E	1972	Laicized (1998); Deceased (2002)
Beale, Robert P	1970	Laicized (2010); Deceased (2019)
Cartier, Jr., Frederick J	1963	Laicized (2010); Deceased (2020)
Coleman, Joseph K	1981	Laicized (2005)
Connell, John K	1965	Laicized (2005); Deceased (2007)
Conte, Denis A	1975	Laicized (2004)
Daly, Robert F	1967	Laicized (2011)
Finegan, Paul J	1970	Laicized (2005)
Forry, Thomas P	1968	Laicized (2006)
Frost, Peter J	1970	Laicized (2005)
Govoni, Louis J	1972	Laicized (2010); Deceased (2020)
Keefe, Dennis A	1989	Laicized (2009)
Knapp, Robert J	1965	Laicized (2010)
Matte, Richard O	1964	Laicized (2005); Deceased (2017)
McDonald, Paul E	1964	Laicized (2005)
McMahon, Jr., Benjamin J	1968	Laicized (2010); Deceased (2021)
Meffan, Robert V	1953	Laicized (2004); Deceased (2023)

Name	Year Of Ordination	Status
Morrissette, Robert H	1975	Laicized (2005)
Ryan, Frederick J	1964	Laicized (2005); Deceased (2023)
Tourigney, Ernest E	1961	Laicized (2006)
Walsh, William M	1971	Laicized (2011)
Ward, Robert A	1974	Laicized (2004)
White, Paul D	1961	Laicized (2005)
Wilson, James L	1990	Laicized (1998)

C. Cases Involving Living Archdiocesan Clergy That Already Have Been Publicized, But Where The Canonical Proceedings Against Those Clergy Have Not Yet Been Resolved.

Included in this section are the names of priests or deacons of the Boston Archdiocese who have been publicly accused of sexually abusing a child, but where there remain to be completed canonical proceedings involving those priests or deacons. In each case, the cleric involved has been removed from public ministry and remains on administrative leave. It must be emphasized that there has been no final determination of guilt or innocence in these cases.

Name	Year Of Ordination	Status
Kanchong, Peter	1968, Diocese of Ratchburi, Thailand	AWOL

D. Cases Involving Priests Accused After Laicization On Other Grounds.

Laicization under Church law is a process whereby the cleric voluntarily requests that he be separated from the clerical state. Included in this section are the names of priests who were already laicized (and therefore no longer in the clerical state) when they were publicly accused of sexual abuse of a minor.

Name	Year Of Ordination	Status
Carew, Michael J	1949; Incardinated 1964	Laicized (1971); Deceased (2015)
Dunn, John A	1960	Laicized (1973)
Maloney, William F	1959	Laicized (1974)

Name	Year Of Ordination	Status
McCarthy, Paul R	1980	AWOL (2005)
Towner, Robert K	1969	Laicized (1990)

E. Cases Involving Deceased Clergy for Whom Criminal or Canonical Proceedings Were Not Completed But The Existence of Allegations Has Been Publicized.

This section includes the names of deceased clergy accused of sexual abuse of a minor for whom criminal or canonical proceedings were not completed, but the existence of allegations has been publicized. In most cases, allegations were received only after the priest's death. In others, the priest died before the conclusion of the proceedings. There has been no formal determination of guilt in these cases. Rather, the Archdiocese has decided to list these names in the interest of transparency and healing.

Name	Year Of Ordination	Status
Atwater, John T	1963	Deceased (2006)
Aubut, Charles E	1941	Deceased (2002)
Bailot, Eugene J	1937	Deceased (1983)
Bayers, Sydney H	1937	Deceased (1979)
Beauvais, Leon F	1962	Deceased (1997)
Berthold, George C	1963	Deceased (2020)
Birmingham, Joseph E	1960	Deceased (1989)
Bolduc, Paul J	1960	Deceased (2009)
Boucher, Clarence R	1940	Deceased (2001)
Breton, Philippe C	1936	Deceased (1984)
Bullock, Myron F	1953	Deceased (2007)
Butler, William L	1961	Deceased (2017)
Butler, Richard J.	1962	Deceased (2012)

Name	Year Of Ordination	Status
Byrne, Joseph F.	1969	Deceased (2014)
Collins, Jeremiah J	1939	Deceased (1982)
Connelly, James E	1943	Deceased (1985)
Cotter, John M	1960	Deceased (1989)
Creighton, Gerard E	1951	Deceased (2004)
Croke, Edmund W	1928	Deceased (1971)
Cummings, William J	1968	Deceased (1994)
Dever, Gerard V	1971	Deceased (1997)
Dewey, Charles F	1939	Deceased (1996)
Dewire, John J	1946	Deceased (1994)
Dwyer, Leo V	1932	Deceased (1989)
Fairbairn, Frank E	1969	Deceased (2000)
Foley, James J	1978	Deceased (2016)
Fusoni, Joseph A	1960	Deceased (1988)
Graham, Daniel M	1970	Deceased (2023)
Guiney, John E	1947	Deceased (1998)
Hagan, Arthur J	1933	Deceased (1963)
Hyder, Raymond L	1929	Deceased (1975)
Jansonis, Alphonse	1945	Deceased (2000)
Kane, Charles R	1953	Deceased (1986)
Keenan, Bernard J	1948	Deceased (1966)
Kenney, Joseph F	1931	Deceased (1992)
Lane, John J	1925	Deceased (1971)
Lane, James H.	1962	Deceased (2007)

Name	Year Of Ordination	Status
LeBlanc, Kenneth	1976	Deceased (2010)
Lombard, Samuel J	1946	Deceased (1998)
Manning, Paul F	1967	Deceased (2020)
McAndrews, John K	1949	Deceased (1986)
McDonald, James T	1953	Deceased (1999)
McKeon, James T	1928	Deceased (1965)
Morgan, William H	1950	Deceased (1999)
Moriarty, Paul J	1948	Deceased (1982)
Motherway, Thomas F	1969	Deceased (2003)
Murphy, Kenneth B	1946	Deceased (1999)
O'Neill, William V	1931	Deceased (1960)
Ouellette, Lionel P	1957	Deceased (2000)
Papile, Joseph A (Deacon)	1988	Deceased (2009)
Rebeiro, Anthony J	Ordained for Diocese of Nagpur, India in 1956; Incardinated into the Archdiocese of Boston in 1977	Deceased (2017)
Reilly, Joseph P	1943	Deceased (1992)
Roche, Allan E	1946	Deceased (1997)
Ryer, Robert L	1943	Deceased (1967)
Rynne, Paul P	1956	Deceased (2001)
Shaughnessey, James C	1937	Deceased (1989)
Shea, William B	1946	Deceased (2005)
Shea, Francis S	1932	Deceased (1972)
Spagnolia, D. George	1964	Deceased (2008)
St. Hilaire, Bernard	1951	Deceased (1977)

Name	Year Of Ordination	Status
Sullivan, Michael D	1945	Deceased (2005)
Thomson, J. Garrett	1981	Deceased (2010)
Veneto, Joseph P	1946	Deceased (1998)
White, John J	1957	Deceased (2004)

Archdiocese of Boston Pastoral
Center
66 Brooks Drive
Braintree, MA 02184

Phone: 617-254-0100

Privacy Policy

©2025 Archdiocese of Boston
All Rights Reserved.

Login powered by eScriber