

Diocese of Buffalo – List of clergy with substantiated claims of abuse

Downloaded 9/1/25 from <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/substantiated-list/>

Definitions:

Canonical Precept:

Clerics who have the public exercise of their ministry restricted in whole or in part by the Bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo are said to be under a canonical precept. These individuals have not been found guilty of a canonical crime but are believed to have committed some act of impropriety in the past which could be seen as scandalous in the eyes of the faithful. Precepts, by their nature, are not perpetual and are subject to review. This is fully compliant with the USCCB [*Charter for Protection of Children and Young People/Essential Norms \(2006\)*](#), the [*Code of Canon Law \(1983/2021\)*](#), and the [*Stipulated Final Order of the Attorney General of the State of New York and the Diocese of Buffalo \(2022\)*](#).

Child:

Any person under 18 years of age.

Child or Vulnerable Adult Abuse:

Causing or attempting or threatening to cause harm to a child's or vulnerable adult's health or welfare, to include damage to the physical or emotional/psychological health and welfare of a child or vulnerable adult, resulting from non-accidental physical or mental injury, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, molestation, or repeated negligent treatment or maltreatment.

Cleric:

A person ordained for service in the Roman Catholic Church.

Complaint:

An allegation of child or vulnerable adult abuse or sexual abuse of a child or vulnerable adult by personnel that is received by the Diocese and contains sufficient detail to identify the alleged abuse and the alleged abuser(s). A complaint may include allegations of a violation of the Code of Conduct's prohibition on behavior by personnel that constitutes grooming. [A form for written complaints is attached as Appendix A.](#)

Life of Prayer and Penance:

A cleric who has been sentenced canonically to a life of prayer and penance has been permanently removed from engaging in public ministry and is obligated to live alone in prayer.

Religious Order Allegation:

An allegation of sexual abuse of a child or vulnerable adult by a member of a religious order who, at the time of the alleged abuse or at the time the allegation is made, works, teaches,

ministers, or resides within the Diocese. The allegation may assert a violation of the Code of Conduct's prohibition on behavior by a member of a religious order that constitutes grooming.

Removed from the Clerical State:

A cleric is removed from the clerical state if the Holy See has returned the cleric to a status essentially equivalent to that of a lay person. Practically speaking, a cleric who has been removed from the clerical state is prohibited from saying Mass, hearing confessions (except in certain extreme circumstances), administering the sacraments, wearing clerical garb, presenting himself as a cleric, using the title "Father" or "Reverend," or otherwise exercising sacred ministry in the Church. This is sometimes referred to colloquially as being "laicized."

Vulnerable Adult:

A person who is impaired by reason of mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness, or disability to the extent that he or she lacks sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible decisions concerning his or her person or to manage his or her affairs effectively.

[List of diocesan priests with substantiated claims of abuse](#)

List of diocesan priests with substantiated claims of abuse

Rev. John Aurelio

Birth: 1937 | *Death:* 8/26/2009

Ordination: 1966

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 1993; deceased

Rev. Ramon Aymerich

Birth: 1948 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1975

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Left Catholic Church 1982; Episcopal priest

Rev. Donald W. Becker

Birth: 1942 | *Death:* 2/15/2022

Ordination: 1967

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Ron Becker

Birth: 1945 | *Death:* 1/21/2009

Ordination: 1972

1 or more Allegations: 1

Status: Deceased priest of the Diocese of Trenton

Rev. David M. Bialkowski

Birth: 1961 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1988

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2011; Removed from the Clerical State

Rev. Robert J. Biesinger

Birth: 1931 | *Death:* 7/22/2012

Ordination: 1956

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 1994; deceased

Rev. Richard John Bohm

Birth: 1933 | *Death:* 10/22/1984

Ordination: 1965

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Msgr. George Brennan

Birth: 1921 | *Death:* 1/31/2006

Ordination: 1949

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Gerald P. Collins

Birth: 1927 | *Death:* 6/8/1995

Ordination: 1954

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Robert Patrick Conlin

Birth: 1931 | *Death:* 12/9/1997

Ordination: 1956

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Paul R. Coppola

Birth: 1923 | *Death:* 11/17/2006

Ordination: 1951

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. James H. Cotter

Birth: 1916 | *Death:* 7/14/1991

Ordination: 1950

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Richard C. Crumlish

Birth: 1921 | *Death:* 4/15/2006

Ordination: 1945

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Louis S. Dolinic

Birth: 1940 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1966

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2018; Life of Prayer and Penance

Rev. John S. Doyle

Birth: 1903 | *Death:* 1/3/1977

Ordination: 1929

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Daniel G. Duggan

Birth: 1923 | *Death:* 1975

Ordination: 1948

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Donald S. Fafinski

Birth: 1941 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1966

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2003; Life of Prayer and Penance

Rev. Douglas F. Faraci

Birth: 1943 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1969

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2018; Life of Prayer and Penance

Rev. Ralph P. Federico

Birth: 1927 | *Death:* 2007

Ordination: 1952

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Frederick G. Fingerle

Birth: 1937 | *Death:* 1/25/2002

Ordination: 1963

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Michael R. Freeman

Birth: 1946 | *Death:* 1/17/2010

Ordination: 1972

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 1989; Deceased

Rev. Joseph Patrick Friel

Birth: 1932 | *Death:* 8/19/1995

Ordination: 1957

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 1992; Deceased

Rev. Mark McCormick Friel

Birth: 1934 | *Death:* 2/24/23

Ordination: 1963

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2003; Life of Prayer and Penance

Rev. Dennis A. Fronczak

Birth: 1948 | *Death:* 10/6/2021

Ordination: 1975

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2015; Deceased

Rev. Gerard Leo Green

Birth: 1928 | *Death:* 8/14/2012

Ordination: 1956

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Thomas Gresock

Birth: 1956 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1985

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from the clerical state

Rev. John P. Hajduk

Birth: 1949 | *Death:* 10/18/2021

Ordination: 1976

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 1994; Deceased

Rev. Michael J. Harrington

Birth: 1910 | *Death:* 12/19/1989

Ordination: 1942

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Brian M. Hatrick

Birth: 1945 | *Death:* 1/22/2025

Ordination: 1979

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2007; Deceased

Msgr. James Patrick Hayes

Birth: 1922 | *Death:* 11/29/1988

Ordination: 1946

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Louis J. Hendricks

Birth: 1936 | *Death:* 10/27/1990

Ordination: 1963

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Joseph Grant Higgins

Birth: 1926 | *Death:* 11/23/2016

Ordination: 1975

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Francis T. Hogan

Birth: 1921 | *Death:* 6/21/2010

Ordination: 1946

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Fred D. Ingalls

Birth: 1948 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1974

1 or more Allegations: 1

Status: Life of Prayer and Penance

Rev. Pascal D. Ipolito

Birth: 1944 | *Death:* 4/4/2025

Ordination: 1970

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Florian Anthony Jasinski

Birth: 1930 | *Death:* 12/19/1983

Ordination: 1957

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Gerald C. Jasinski

Birth: 1942 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1968

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 1986; removed from clerical state 1988

Rev. Richard P. Judd

Birth: 1924 | *Death:* 11/17/1988

Ordination: 1964

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Michael Juran

Birth: 1948 | *Death:* 11/11/24

Ordination: 1976

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2018; deceased

Msgr. Edward L. Kazmierczak

Birth: 1926 | *Death:* 2001

Ordination: 1951

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Timothy James Kelley

Birth: 1947 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1978

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Transferred to St. Petersburg Diocese 1983; faculties revoked

Rev. Thomas L. Kemp

Birth: 1927 | *Death:* 3/7/2019

Ordination: 1952

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2004; Deceased

Rev. Richard J. Keppeler

Birth: 1929 | *Death:* 12/26/2011

Ordination: 1954

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2003; Deceased

Msgr. Charles A. Klauder

Birth: 1880 | *Death:* 9/16/1972

Ordination: 1918

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Paul James Kowalewski

Birth: 1947 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1973

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Left priesthood 1976; laicized 1977; Episcopal priest

Rev. John D. Lewandowski

Birth: 1932 | *Death:* 1/13/1982

Ordination: 1962

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Donald J. Lutz

Birth: 1944 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1970

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2021; Life of Prayer and Penance

Rev. Bernard M. Mach

Birth: 1938 | *Death:* 2/17/2004

Ordination: 1964

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 1993; Deceased

Rev. Louis Mako*Birth:* 1934 | *Death:**Ordination:* 1962*1 or more Allegations:* +*Status:* Left Diocese 1972; retired in Vienna; case is in Rome**Rev. Loville N. Martlock***Birth:* 1937 | *Death:* 12/26/2014*Ordination:* 1963*1 or more Allegations:* +*Status:* Removed from ministry 2004; Deceased**Rev. Fabian J. Maryanski***Birth:* 1941 | *Death:**Ordination:* 1971*1 or more Allegations:* 1*Status:* Removed from ministry 2018; Awaiting extra judicial process**Rev. Thomas J. McCarthy***Birth:* 1941 | *Death:**Ordination:* 1980*1 or more Allegations:* +*Status:* Life of Prayer and Penance**Rev. Francis W. McKenna***Birth:* 1901 | *Death:* 1/3/1977*Ordination:* 1927*1 or more Allegations:* +*Status:* Deceased

Msgr. Joseph M. McPherson*Birth:* 1909 | *Death:* 11/26/1982*Ordination:* 1936*1 or more Allegations:* +*Status:* Deceased**Rev. Ronald Mierzwa***Birth:* 1950 | *Death:**Ordination:* 1976*1 or more Allegations:* 1*Status:* Removed from ministry 2018; Canonical Precept**Rev. Robert D. Moss***Birth:* 1943 | *Death:* 3/29/2018*Ordination:* 1969*1 or more Allegations:* +*Status:* Deceased**Rev. Terrence N. Niedbalski***Birth:* 1939 | *Death:* 7/10/1997*Ordination:* 1964*1 or more Allegations:* +*Status:* Removed from ministry 1975; Deceased**Rev. Basil A. Ormsby***Birth:* 1912 | *Death:* 6/14/1997*Ordination:* 1942*1 or more Allegations:* +*Status:* Deceased**Rev. Norbert F. Orsolits***Birth:* 1939 | *Death:* 3/25/2021*Ordination:* 1965*1 or more Allegations:* +*Status:* Removed from ministry 2003; Deceased

Rev. Daniel J. Palys

Birth: 1943 | *Death:* 08/21/24

Ordination: 1969

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased. Removed from ministry 2018

Rev. Martin L. Pavlock

Birth: 1939 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1966

1 or more Allegations: 1

Status: Life of Prayer and Penance

Rev. Michael Raimondo

Birth: 1877 | *Death:* Italy

Ordination: 1903

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Joseph P. Rappl

Birth: 1952 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1978

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Left priesthood 1999

Rev. Leo F. Reddy

Birth: 1893 | *Death:* 1976

Ordination: 1938

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. David V. Roche

Birth: 1915 | *Death:* 6/28/2004

Ordination: 1942

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Roy K. Ronald

Birth: 1935 | *Death:* 10/28/2013

Ordination: 1960

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 1995; Deceased

Msgr. Joseph E. Schieder

Birth: 1908 | *Death:* 6/12/1996

Ordination: 1935

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Msgr. Ronald P. Sciera

Birth: 1934 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1961

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2021; Canonical Precept

Rev. Joseph A. Schuster

Birth: 1939 | *Death:* 7/23/2007

Ordination: 1966

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Gerald Paul Sheehan

Birth: 1938 | *Death:* 6/12/2006

Ordination: 1964

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Ronald T. Silverio

Birth: 1944 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1970

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry; left the priesthood

Rev. Howard Bernard Slack

Birth: 1917 | *Death:* 8/18/1976

Ordination: 1959

1 or more Allegations: 1

Status: Laicized 1976; Deceased

Rev. Arthur J. Smith

Birth: 1945 | *Death:* 10/17/23

Ordination: 1971

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Gerard A. Smyczynski

Birth: 1953 | *Death:* 8/12/1999

Ordination: 1980

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Clatus E. Snyder

Birth: 1907 | *Death:* 3/6/2001

Ordination: 1934

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. James A. Spielman

Birth: 1944 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1970

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 1993; Removed from clerical state

Rev. Chester S. Stachewicz

Birth: 1940 | *Death:* 4/8/2010

Ordination: 1971

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 1982; Deceased

Msgr. William G. Stanton

Birth: 1924 | *Death:* 1/7/2004

Ordination: 1949

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Harry Richard Strassberger

Birth: 1917 | *Death:* 12/16/1999

Ordination: 1950

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Joseph E. Vatter

Birth: 1952 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1978

1 or more Allegations: 1

Status: Removed from ministry 2023; Canonical Precept* (*see bottom of page*)

Rev. Samuel James Venne

Birth: 1942 | *Death:*

Ordination: 1978

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2018; Canonical Precept

Rev. Edward John Walker

Birth: 1906 | *Death:* 2/28/2002

Ordination: 1936

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. William G. Ward

Birth: 1924 | *Death:* 12/2/2008

Ordination: 1950

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Deceased

Rev. Charles J. Werth

Birth: 1928 | *Death:* 12/9/2017

Ordination: 1953

1 or more Allegations: +

Status: Removed from ministry 2004; Deceased

Rev. William F. J. White*Birth: 1942 | Death: 5/27/2016**Ordination: 1968**1 or more Allegations: +**Status: Removed from ministry 1993; Deceased***Rev. Mark James Wolski***Birth: 1942 | Death:**Ordination: 1967**1 or more Allegations: 1**Status: Removed from ministry 2018; Judicial Process (2024-2025) resulted in the finding of not guilty; Canonical Precept***Rev. Robert W. Wood***Birth: 1947 | Death: 6/24/2019**Ordination: 1974**1 or more Allegations: +**Status: Removed from ministry 2003; Deceased***Recommendations from the Independent Review Board (IRB) from 2023 to present:***Rev. Daniel Palys | The IRB recommends that 3 allegations are substantiated and 2 are unsubstantiated.**Rev. Louis Dolinic | The IRB recommends that 1 allegation is substantiated and 1 is unsubstantiated.**Rev. Msgr. Peter Popadick | The IRB did not find the complaint against Fr. Popadick to have any merit whatsoever.**Rev. Joseph Vatter | The IRB recommends 1 allegation to be not substantiated and 3 to be credible but only 1 to constitute as sexual abuse of a child.**Rev. Patryk Sobczyk | The IRB recommends that there are no substantiated allegations of child sex abuse.*

From the Dicastery for the Clergy:

*According to the natural law and reaffirmed by canon law (can. 1321 §1), the Reverend Joseph E. Vatter is considered innocent until the contrary is proved through penal process. The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, the only competent body to adjudicate the accusations, declared on 18 December 2023 that the alleged delict is prescribed, and therefore the possibility of criminal action is extinct. Canon Precept.