

List of Paulist Fathers with Credible Claims of Sexual Abuse of a Minor

The Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, The Paulist Fathers, was founded in 1858. The Paulist Fathers have served in the United States, Canada, South Africa, and Italy in our 160 year history.

This list of Paulist Fathers, living, deceased, and departed, with credible claims of sexual abuse of a minor, dating to 1943, is being published as part of our on-going commitment to transparency and accountability.

Since the revelations of clergy sexual abuse in Boston in 2002, there has been significant effort to reform and change how the Church and the religious communities like ours handle claims of sexual abuse. While even one case is abhorrent, it is important to note that safeguards have been put in place to create safe environments in our ministries for everyone.

This list contains the names of Paulist Fathers who are or were members of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle against whom a credible claim of sexual abuse of a minor (under the age of 18) or a vulnerable adult has been made. The list also includes Paulist Fathers listed by other archdiocese or diocese.

Inclusion in this list does not imply that the claims are true and correct or that the accused individual has been found guilty of a crime or liable for civil claims. In some instances, the claims were made several years or decades after the alleged events and were not capable of an investigation and determination.

Some claims were received after an accused priest was deceased. In those instances, the accused was unable to defend himself or deny the charges. The Society was unable to undertake a thorough investigation.

While we attempted to be as thorough and accurate as possible in compiling the list, the Paulist Fathers will continue to undergo a review of our files. If additional cases of Paulists with credible claims of abuse are identified, we will release those names as well.

We encourage anyone who has felt victimized by a Paulist Father to contact Rev. John Behnke, Safety Officer of the Paulist Fathers or Antonia Nedder, Paulist Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 212 757-8072, as well as appropriate law enforcement and child-protective agencies.

PAULIST FATHERS WITH CREDIBLE CLAIMS

Third Update October 15, 2020

DECEASED AND FORMER PAULIST FATHERS WITH CREDIBLE CLAIMS

Some claims were received after an accused priest was deceased or departed the Society. In those instances, the accused was unable to defend himself, deny the charges, or be reached. The Society was unable to undertake a thorough investigation. Deceased and former individuals are included in this list based upon the fact that an accusation was reported and found credible.

Ronald Francis Burt, C.S.P.

Date of Birth: 10/13/1921

Date of Ordination: 05/01/1951

Date of Death: 10/24/1994

Assignments:

New York Archdiocese	St Paul the Apostle Church	1951-1955
Los Angeles Archdiocese	St. Paul the Apostle Church	1955-1962
Johannesburg, S.A.	Blessed Sacrament Parish	1962-1963
New York Archdiocese	Good Shepherd Parish	1963-1986
Palm Beach Diocese	Paulist Residence, Vero Beach	1987-1992
Cherry Valley, California	Guadalupe Care & Retreat Center	1992- 1994

Incident Location/Date: Good Shepherd Parish, 1973-79.

Date Reported: circa September 1986, 2018

David Paul Chandler

Date of Birth: 12/6/1946

Date of Ordination: 05/17/75

Departed Paulist Fathers: 12/17/82

Living: Current Location Unknown

Assignments:

Austin Diocese	(Deacon) St. Austin	1974-1975
Los Angeles Arch.	St. Paul the Apostle Church	1975-1978
Tucson Diocese	St. Cyril's Parish	1978-1981
Leave of Absence		1981-1982

Allegation Location/Date: St. Paul the Apostle Church, 1982

Reported: 1986, 2004

Thomas Joseph Dove, C.S.P.

Date of Birth: 3/2/1934

Date of Ordination: 05/01/61

Suspended from Ministry: 11/2014
Date of Death: 10/02/2020

Assignments:

Boston Arch.	Park Street Center	1961-1962
Salt Lake City Diocese	St. Rose of Lima Church	1962-1965
Los Angeles Arch.	St. Paul the Apostle Church/ Information Center	1965-1975
New York Arch.	Paulist Press	1975-1976
Toronto, Canada	Paulist Information Centre	1976-1985
Notre Dame University	Sabbatical	1985
Chicago Archdiocese	Old St. Mary's Parish	1985-1992
Memphis Diocese	St. Patrick's Church	1992-1994
San Francisco Arch.	Old St. Mary's Cathedral	1992-2014
San Francisco Arch.	In residence	2014-2019
San Francisco Arch.	Nursing Home	2019-2020

Allegation Location/Date: St. Paul the Apostle, 1975
Reported: November 2014

Vincent Francis Holden, C.S.P.

Date of Birth: 04/21/1911
Date of Ordination: 01/29/1937
Date of Death: 08/23/1972

Assignments:

New York Archdiocese	Good Shepherd Parish	Summer 1937
Washington Arch.	St. Paul's College	1937-1939
Austin Diocese	St. Austin's/Campus Ministry	1939-1942
New York Archdiocese	St. Paul the Apostle Mission Band	1942-1943 1943
	Information Center	1943-1949
Detroit Archdiocese	Paulist Mission Band	1949-1952
New York Archdiocese	Paulist Archives	1952-1956
Patterson Diocese	Paulist Novitiate	1956-1965
New York Archdiocese	Mission Band	1965-1972

Allegation Location/Date: St. Paul the Apostle, New York City, 1943
Reported: 2010, 2019

Stephan Leslie Johnson

Date of Birth: 01/04/1953
Date of Ordination: 05/16/1981
Left Priesthood & Paulist Fathers: 07/12/1996
Living: Current Address Unknown

Los Angeles Arch	St. Mark's University Parish Goleta, California	1981-1983
Norwich Diocese	St. Thomas Aquinas Univ. Parish Storrs, CT	1983-1987
Los Angeles Arch.	Indult of Exclaustration DeSales Hall, Bellflower, CA	1987-1989 1989-1990
	St. John Bosco High School Bellflower, CA	1990-1991
Columbus Diocese	St. Thomas More Newman Ctr. Leave of Absence	1991-1995 1995-1996

Allegation Location/Date: Ashford Motel/Catholic High School, Storrs, CT
1985-1987

Reported: 2018

Thomas Reon Paul Marshall, Jr., C.S.P.

Date of Birth: 10/30/1928

Date of Ordination: 05/01/1959

Date of Death: 12/24/2012

Assignments:

Boston Archdiocese	Park Street Center	1959-1960
Los Angeles Arch.	St. Paul the Apostle Church	1960-1962
Chicago Arch.	Old St. Mary's Church	1962-1966
Toronto Arch.	St. Peter's Church/Missions	1966-2002
	Senior Ministry	2002-2009
	Nursing Home	2009-2012

Allegation Location/Date: St. Paul the Apostle Church, Los Angeles, 1959-1960

Reported: 2002

Allegation Location/Date: St. Paul the Apostle Church, Los Angeles, 1960-1962

Reported: 2003

Allegation Location/Date: St. Mary of the Lake, Lake George NY 1956 & 1959.

Reported: 2008

Allegation Location/Date: St. Teresa Parish, Buffalo, 1982

Reported: 2018

Allegation Location/Date: St. Paul the Apostle Church, Los Angeles, 1961-62

Reported: 2018

Robert Paul Michele, C.S.P.

Date of Birth: 12/21/1927

Date of Ordination: 05/03/1955

Date of Death: 09/23/2020

Assignments:

San Francisco Arch.	Old St. Mary's Cathedral	1955
Austin Diocese	St. Austin's Church	1955-1958
New York Arch.	St. Paul the Apostle Church	1958-1961
	Missions	1961-1963
Mobile, AL, Arch.	Paulist Information Ctr.	1963-1964
Portland, OR, Arch.	St. Philip Neri Parish	1964-1968
Vancouver Arch.	Paulist Information Ctr.	1968-1972
Portland Arch.	St. Philip Neri Parish	1972-1973
Boston Arch.	St. Ann's Parish	1973-1979
Toronto Arch.	St. Peter's Church	1979-1981
San Francisco Arch.	Old St. Mary's Cathedral	1981-1986
Baltimore Arch	Johns Hopkins Univ. Ministry	1986-1989
Austin Diocese	St. Austin's Church	1989-1991
	Senior Ministry	1991-2011
Portland Arch.	Nursing Home	2011-2020

Allegation Location/Date: St. Philip Neri Church, Portland, 1964
 Reported: 2005. Unsubstantiated after investigation.

Allegation Location/Date: St. Philip Neri Church, Portland, 1964-1968
 Reported: 2018

John Dennis Mitchell, C.S.P.

Date of Birth: 05/30/1909

Date of Ordination: 02/24/1938

Date of Death: 12/18/1996

Assignments:

Nashville Diocese	Good Shepherd Parish, Winchester	1938
Salt Lake City Diocese	St. Paul the Apostle, Vernal	1938-1941
Charleston, SC, Diocese	St. Andrew's, Clemson	1941
New York Archdiocese	St. Paul the Apostle/Mission	1941-1942
Nashville Diocese	Missions	1942
Detroit Archdiocese	Wayne State Campus Ministry	1942-1943
Salt Lake City Diocese	St. Olaf Parish, Bountiful UT	1943-1946
Minneapolis/St. Paul	St. Lawrence Church	1946-1952
Toronto Archdiocese	St. Peter's Church	1952-1956
New York Arch.	Paulist General Offices	1956-1964
	Good Shepherd Parish	1961-1964
Los Angeles Arch	St. Paul the Apostle	1964-1970
San Francisco Arch	Paulist Res./Special Assignment	1970-1971
New York Arch	Hosp. Chaplaincy/Calvary Hosp.	1971-1978
San Diego	Hosp. Chaplain/Mercy Hosp.	1978-1980
New York Archdiocese	Paulist House/Senior Ministry	1980-1996

Allegation Location/Date: St. Paul the Apostle Church, Los Angeles, 1968
Reported: 1994

Rocco Francis Perone, C.S.P.

Date of Birth: 05/01/1920

Date of Ordination: 05/03/1949

Date of Death: 05/05/1992

Assignments:

Chicago Archdiocese	Old St. Mary's Church	1949-1950
Portland OR Arch.	St. Philip Neri Church	1950-1956
Salt Lake City Diocese	St. Rose of Lima Church	1956-1957
Austin Diocese	St. Austin's/Missions	1957-1988
Toronto Archdiocese	St. Peter's Church	1988-1989
Austin Diocese	Senior Ministry	1989-1992

Allegations Location/Date: St. Philip Neri, Portland, 1950-1956, multiple cases
Reported: 2002

Allegation Location/Date: Casper, WY, 1956

Reported: 1956, 2002

Allegation Location/Date: St. James the Greater Church, Oklahoma City, OK, 1958-1962

Reported: 2018

Allegation Location/Date: Beaumont, TX, 1965-1975 (2 Cases)

Reported: 2019

Edward Augustine Sheehy, C.S.P.

Date of Birth: 07/30/1912

Date of Ordination: 05/18/1940 (Diocese of Portland, Maine)

Date of Reception into Paulist Fathers: 09/08/1952

Date of Death: 10/03/1988

Assignments:

Boston Arch.	Park Street Center	1953-1955
San Francisco	Old St. Mary's Cathedral	1955-1957
	Missions	1957-1958
Johannesburg, S.A.	Blessed Sacrament Church	1958-1962
San Francisco	In Residence (sick leave)	1962-1963
Los Angeles	Missions	1963-1964
New York	St. Paul the Apostle Church	1964-1968
Baltimore	St. Peter's Minor Seminary	1968-1969
New York	St. Paul the Apostle	1969-1984
	Senior Ministry Status	1984-1988

Allegation Location/Date: San Diego, 1955-57

Reported: 2003 Part of Los Angeles Settlement

Allegation Location/Date: St. Peter's Minor Seminary, Baltimore, 1968

Reported: 2020

Francis Michael Sweeney, C.S.P.

Date of Birth: 07/30/1934

Date of Ordination: 05/01/1961

Date of Death: 08/30/2013

Assignments:

New York Arch.	Good Shepherd Parish	1961
Boston Arch.	Park Street Center	1961-1962
Minneapolis Arch.	St. Lawrence Church	1962-1964
Los Angeles Arch.	St. Paul the Apostle Church	1964-1967
Washington Arch.	Studies	1967-1971
Columbus Diocese	Newman Center	1971-1972
Baltimore Arch.	Johns Hopkins Campus Min.	1972-1976
Los Angeles Arch	St. Marks University Parish UCSB	1976-1978
Washington Arch	St. Paul's College/Vocations	1978-1982
Baltimore Arch	Univ. of Maryland Base Comm./Relay MD	1982-1994
New York Arch.	In Residence/Unassigned	1994-1995
Boston Arch.	In Residence/Unassigned	1995-2004
New York Arch.	In Residence/Unassigned	2004-2013

Allegations Location/Date: University Base Community at Relay, MD, 1970.

Reported: 1994.

Allegation Location/Date: University Base Community at Relay, MD, Unknown date

Reported: 2018

Thomas Fergus Tierney, C.S.P.

Date of Birth: 07/28/1899

Date of Ordination: 02/24/1938

Date of Death: 12/24/1972

Assignments:

Rome, Italy	Santa Susanna Church	1924-1926
New York Arch.	St. Paul the Apostle Church	1926-1927
Portland OR Arch.	St. Philip Neri Church	1927-1938
New York Arch.	St. Paul the Apostle Church	1938-1940
Charleston, SC Diocese	St. Andrew Church, Clemson	1940-1941
Austin Diocese	St. Austin's Church/Campus	1941-1950
Boston Arch.	St. Ann's Church	1950-1951

Toronto, Canada Arch.	St. Peter's Church	1951-1952
Austin Diocese	St. Austin's Church	1952-1953
New York Arch.	St. Paul the Apostle Church	1953-1956
Charleston Diocese	St. Andrew Church, Clemson	1956-1963
Washington Arch.	St. Paul's College	1963-1964
Tucson Diocese	Spiritual Director	1964-1970
Toronto Arch.	St. Joseph's College	1970-1972
	St. Peter's Church/retired	1972.

Allegation Location/Date: Austin, Texas 1943.
 Reported: 1993

DECEASED AND FORMER PAULIST FATHERS NAMED IN DIOCESAN LISTINGS

Some Catholic Dioceses have previously published lists of accused clergy. In these instances, The Paulist Fathers did not have the opportunity to conduct an independent review. In addition, these claims were received after an accused priest was deceased and thus was unable to defend himself or deny the charges. Consequently, The Paulist Fathers now re-publishes those lists of names already in the public domain.

Rudolph Thomas Vorisek, C.S.P.

Date of Birth: 11/01/1928
 Date of Ordination: 05/03/1956
 Date of Death: 05/18/2011

Assignments:

Boston Arch.	Park Street Center	1956 (June-Sept)
Washington Arch.	St. Paul's College	1956-1957
Baltimore Arch.	St. Peter's Minor Seminary	1957-1968
Los Angeles Arch.	St. Mark's Univ. Parish-UCSB	1968-1976
Grand Rapids Diocese	Catholic Information Center	1976-1984
New York Arch.	St. Paul the Apostle/Hospital Chap.	1984-1992
	Senior Ministry	1992-2011

Allegation Location/Date: St. Mark's University Parish, Goleta, CA, 1970.
 Reported 2013.

Anthony Joseph Wilhelm

Date of Birth: 10/11/1924
 Date of Ordination: 05/01/1954
 Left Priesthood: 8/20/1975
 Date of Death: 7/7/1999

Assignments:

San Francisco Arch	Old St. Mary's Cathedral	1954-1957
Minneapolis/St. Paul Arch	St. Lawrence Church	1957-1966
San Francisco Arch	Old St. Mary's Cathedral	1966-1968
Oakland Diocese	Newman Hall/Holy Spirit Parish	1968-1975

Allegation Location/Date: Minneapolis, 1964.

Reported: 2017 as part of the Minnesota Child Victims Act.

At this time there are no living members of the Paulist Fathers who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable person.