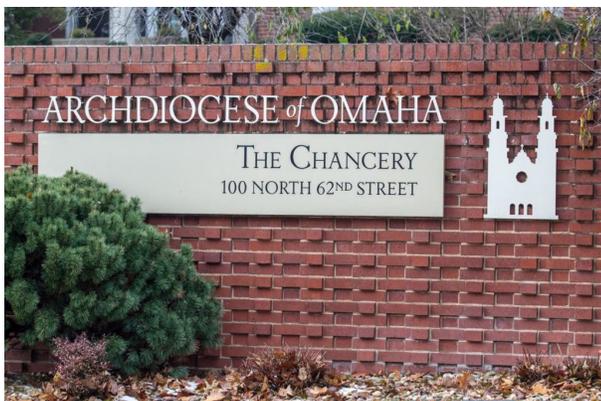


# Omaha Archdiocese reports substantiated allegations of misconduct, abuse involving 38 clergy

BY Erin Grace / World-Herald News Service | November 30, 2018

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*World-Herald News Service*

The Omaha Archdiocese on Friday publicized the names of 38 clergy members — 34 of them Catholic priests — who it says had been credibly accused of misconduct or abuse of minors since 1978.

The archdiocese did so to comply with a request made in September by Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson that all three Nebraska dioceses open their personnel files for review. That request came on the heels of a damning grand jury report from Pennsylvania in which some 300 priests

sexually abused more than 1,000 minors over a 70-year period.

The attorney general's office received the report and is reviewing it, spokeswoman Suzanne Gage said. She said the office had also received files from Nebraska's two other dioceses, based in Lincoln and Grand Island.

Also on Friday, Creighton Prep announced it had suspended a Jesuit priest, the Rev. Jim Sinnerud, from public ministry because of an allegation of sexual misconduct received this week. Prep said the report referred to alleged misconduct before Sinnerud's tenure at Prep. He taught at Prep from 1987 to 2008 and more recently supervised the gym during lunch periods and served in priestly ministry. His name is not on the archdiocesan list.

On Friday, Creighton University President Daniel Hendrickson, a Jesuit priest, said in an email to faculty, staff and students explaining the role that one of the two Jesuits listed in the archdiocesan report had at the university and called for prayers for those who have been hurt or abused.

The Chicago-based USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus, which governs Jesuit priests in Omaha, said Friday it was planning to release its list of Jesuits who had been credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors on Dec. 17.

When a bombshell report about Catholic priest sexual abuse in Boston forced the church in the United States to acknowledge two crimes: the sexual abuse of minors and an institutional cover-up.

That year, the archdiocese implemented reforms aimed at protecting children. But in a video statement released Friday, Omaha Archbishop George Lucas said he will seek a “more specific code of conduct” for clergy and other church workers “so that our clergy and all of you will understand what’s expected of us as we carry out our ministry.”

In the nearly five-minute video, Lucas referred people to the archdiocesan website for more details and apologized “on behalf of the people of God.”

“I’m sorry for what you have experienced in the church,” he said, adding: “We cannot change the sins or the betrayals of the past but we can acknowledge these ugly truths” in order to repent and avoid abuse happening again. He said the archdiocese has a zero-tolerance policy and that it is no place “for anyone guilty of abuse of a minor.”

The archdiocese submitted information on 24 archdiocesan priests with substantiated allegations of the abuse of minors or misconduct with minors. In all, documentation on 38 clergy was given to the attorney general in connection with alleged abuse or misconduct with minors as far back as 1956 but reported to the archdiocese between 1978 and 2018.

Of the 38 clergy:

- >> 34 offended before 2002 and the establishment of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People
- >> 24 were archdiocesan priests
- >> 10 were priests from another state/country/religious order ministering in the archdiocese
- >> 4 were deacons.

The archdiocese said the report will be updated if officials receive future substantiated allegations or after the archdiocese conducts an upcoming forensic audit of its historic clergy files.

Lucas said no one currently serving in ministry — 132 active priests and 215 active deacons in the Archdiocese of Omaha — has had one substantiated allegation of sexual abuse against a young person.

“When we see these numbers that go back many decades, we can see that there was a pattern of failure — both on the part of those who misused their office to abuse minors and

compassionate, just and forthright way," Lucas said.

The following is a searchable list of those named by the Archdiocese of Omaha.

### Clergy named in Archdiocese report

The names of those in the Archdiocese of Omaha’s report on clergy who it says had been credibly accused of misconduct or abuse with minors since 1978. Five clergy — John Fiala, Deacon Emilio Morales Jordan, Francis Nigli, Andrew Syring and Deacon Duane Thome — were named in claims that came after 2002. Names link to World-Herald coverage when applicable. Source: [report.archomaha.org](http://report.archomaha.org)

Search for name, paris

NAME	PARISHES SERVED
<a href="#">John Fiala</a>	Papillion St. Columbkille, Norfolk Sacred Heart, Omaha St. Joan of Arc, Omaha St. Peter, Omaha Christ the King, Spencer St. Mary, Wisner St. Joseph, Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity.
Deacon Emilio Morales Jordan	No parishes listed
Francis Nigli	Omaha St. Vincent de Paul, Papillion St. Columbkille, O’Neill St. Patrick; Amelia St. Joseph, Omaha St. Wenceslaus.
<a href="#">Andrew Syring</a>	Schuyler Divine Mercy, Omaha St. Bernard, Omaha St. Wenceslaus, West Point St. Mary; Monterey, St. Boniface; Aloys, St. Aloysius; St. Charles, St. Anthony.
Deacon Duane Thome	No parishes listed
Robert Allgaier	Norfolk Sacred Heart, Ralston St. Gerald
Richard Arkfeld	Omaha St. Rose, Atkinson St. Joseph, Omaha Holy Cross, Clyde St. Patrick, Lynch Assumption; Niobrara, St. William, Ewing St. Peter of Alcantara, Randolph St. Jane Frances

## PROGRAM ALERT

## Wayne, Norfolk Catholic Football Game Being Carried On KTCH:

Peter; Ponca St. Joseph

John  
Buckson Omaha Our Lady of Guadalupe, Omaha St. Francis of Assisi, Omaha St. Agnes, Omaha Our Lady of Guadalupe, Schuyler St. Augustine

Donald  
Cleary Omaha Holy Cross, Omaha Christ the King, Omaha St. Peter, Omaha St. Patrick, O'Neill St. Patrick, Fordyce St. John; Constance St. Joseph, Wayne St. Mary, Fullerton St. Peter; Clarks, St. Peter, North Bend St. Charles Borromeo; Snyder, St. Leo the Great, Omaha St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Franklin  
Dvorak Norfolk Sacred Heart, O'Neill St. Patrick, Spencer St. Mary, Cleridge St. Michael; Mission of Belden, Hartington Holy Trinity, Omaha St. Wencesalus, Omaha St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

John Feeney  
(Extern) No parishes listed

Joseph  
Finch Omaha Our Lady of Lourdes, Boys Town Immaculate Conception (Dowd Chapel), Archdiocese of the Military Services, Diocese of Albany

James  
Gaughan  
(Extern) Omaha St. Pius X, Hartington Holy Trinity, Bellevue St. Bernadette, Omaha St. Thomas More, Duncan St. Stanislaus, Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica.

Gill, Edward Omaha St. Peter, Coleridge St. Michael, Norfolk Sacred Heart, Omaha St. Agnes, Plainview St. Paul, Butte Sts. Peter & Paul, Madison St. Leonard, Atkinson St. Joseph, Central City St. Michael Stanton St. Peter, Osmond St. Mary of the Seven Dolors, St. Edward St. Edward

Tom  
Glennon  
(SSC) No parishes listed.

Joseph  
Henry (OAR) No parishes listed

Daniel  
Herek Omaha Assumption, Omaha Christ the King, Omaha St. Joan of Arc, Omaha Mary Our Queen, Omaha St. Peter, Omaha St. Bernard, Coleridge St. Michael, Belden St. Mary, Beemer Holy Cross, Omaha St. Ann, Omaha St. Richard.

Joseph No parishes listed.

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## Wayne, Norfolk Catholic Football Game Being Carried On KTCH:

(Extern)

Michael Kelly Elgin St. Boniface, Omaha St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha St. Peter, Randolph St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Battle Creek St. Patrick, Neligh St. Francis of Assisi, Clearwater St. Theresa of Avila, Laurel St. Mary, Genoa St. Rose of Lima, Lyons St. Joseph.

Daniel Kenney (SJ) No parishes listed.

Jay Kruse Fremont St. Patrick, Omaha Roncalli High School, Omaha St. Pius X, Wynot Sacred Heart; St. James, St. Philip & James, Cedar Catholic High School, Ewing St. Peter of Alcantara; Deloit Township St. John, Pope John XXIII High School, Verdigre St. Wenceslaus, Niobrara St. William, O'Neill St. Patrick, Amelia St. Joseph.

Larry Toms Kulangara (SSP) No parishes listed

Duane Lukes Omaha St. Stanislaus, Dodge St. Wenceslaus, Omaha St. Pius X, Lindsay Holy Family, Omaha St. Ann, Norfolk Sacred Heart, Niobrara St. William, St. Edward St. Edward, Osmond St. Mary of the Seven Dolors, Norfolk Immaculata Monastery.

Aloysius McMahon Omaha St. Wencesalus, Boys Town Immaculate Conception (Dowd Chapel), Mission Work in Chile, Boys Town Immaculate Conception (Dowd Chapel), Rummel High School, Pierce St. Joseph, Mission Work in Peru, Wisner St. Joseph, Omaha St. Frances Cabrini, Omaha St. Joan of Arc, Omaha St. Peter, Mission Work in Ecuador

Mark Merkel Fremont St. Patrick, Omaha St. Cecilia Cathedral, O'Neill St. Patrick, West Point Central Catholic School, Beemer Holy Cross

Anthony Palmese (OAR) No parishes listed

Roland Peschel Omaha Sts. Peter & Paul, Ryan High School, Omaha St. Catherine Hospital, Omaha Notre Dame Convent, Omaha Sts. Peter & Paul, Omaha St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Croation Catholic Union of US & Canada

Anthony Omaha Sts. Peter & Paul, Ryan High School, Omaha St. Catherine Hospital, Omaha, Notre

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## Wayne, Norfolk Catholic Football Game Being Carried On KTCH:

## Catholic Union of US &amp; Canada

Deacon Tom Purnell	No parishes listed
John Rizzo	Omaha St. Ann, Omaha Holy Cross, Mission Work in Chile, Boys Town Immaculate Conception, Dixon St. Anne, Genoa St. Rose, Ponca St. Joseph, Waterbury Immaculate Conception, Menominee St. Boniface, Stanton St. Peter, Creighton St. Ludger, Clarks St. Peter, Omaha St. Peter, Omaha St. Ann
Perry Robinson (SJ)	No parishes listed.
Al Salanitro	Omaha St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Omaha Holy Cross, Laurel St. Mary, Dixon St. Anne, Blair St. Francis Borgia, Bellevue St. Bernadette
Thomas Sellentin	Omaha St. Stanislaus, Elgin St. Boniface, Omaha St. Joan of Arc, West Point St. Mary, Lindsay Holy Family, Omaha Blessed Sacrament, Spencer St. Mary, Fullerton St. Peter, Menominee St. Boniface, Howells Sts. Peter & Paul and St. John, North Bend St. Charles Borromeo, Snyder St. Leo the Great
John Starostka	Omaha St. Francis of Assisi, Creighton St. Ludger, Omaha St. Philip Neri, Omaha St. Stanislaus, Platte Center St. Joseph, Newcastle St. Peter, Omaha St. Cecilia Cathedral, Cedar Rapids St. Anthony, Primrose St. Mary, Omaha St. Francis of Assisi
Robert Steinhausen	Omaha Holy Cross, South Sioux City St. Michael, Spencer St. Mary, Norfolk Sacred Heart, Papillion St. Columbkille.
Patrick Henry	Papillion St. Columbkille, Maryknoll Missions, South Sioux City St. Michael, Maryknoll Missions, Diocese of Cleveland
Deacon Robert Pickett	No parishes listed
Jeff Zyla	South Sioux City St. Michael, Omaha St. Leo, Petersburg St. John the Baptist, Raeville St. Bonaventure, Wisner St. Joseph, West Point Central Catholic High School, Aloys St. Aloysius