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Credible allegations of child sex abuse made against 11 clerics in eastern Okla. since 1973



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minor since the diocese began in 1973.

The diocese released the [report](#) after an extensive internal audit of all diocesan personnel files over the last 46 years. The audit showed that 544 personnel files were identified, and it was determined that a credible allegation had been made against 11 members of the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma.

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Below is a list of the 11 clerics:

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- Lawrence Courtright (permanently removed from active ministry July 4, 2002)
- Timothy Daley (permanently removed from active ministry April 28, 1999; returned to lay state Feb. 17, 2004)
- Kenneth Lewis (permanently removed from active ministry July 22, 2002; dismissed from the Clerical State on June 13, 2007)
- Vincent McGouldrick (died Jan. 19, 1994)
- Sid **Starr** (permanently removed from active ministry in 2009)
- Morris Dale Vanderford (removed from active ministry Jan. 21, 1992, died July 4, 1998)
- John Jangam (date of ordination: Nov. 22, 1977; returned to Indiana; current status unknown)
- James Greenwell (died July 14, 2012)
- Robert Pondl (died Jan. 15, 2019)

According to the report, **Starr** was arrested in 2011 on a charge related to conduct with a minor, but it was dismissed in 2012 without prejudice to refiling. After an internal diocesan investigation, **Starr's** permanent removal from active ministry was confirmed.

A news release from the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma says the diocese was made aware in late May 2018 that criminal charges were filed against Lewis in Illinois. Lewis was arrested on May 9, 2018, in connection to an allegation of sexual misconduct that took place in 2001 in Evanston, Illinois, while Lewis was a priest of the Diocese of Tulsa.

The report does not say if any other clerics have been charged.

"On behalf of the Church in Eastern Oklahoma, I apologize to all victims and their families," the Rev. David A. Konderla wrote in the report. "It is difficult to express the sorrow and shame I feel that some of our children were hurt by those who claimed to have stood for the love and grace of Jesus and by we who are leaders who failed to protect them."

"To the courageous and resilient survivors of child sexual abuse, I applaud your bravery and want you to know the Catholics in Eastern Oklahoma support you on your path to healing and

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Konderla wrote in the report that all allegations of sexual abuse against a minor are handled in accordance with state and federal law. Anyone who has been abused by someone representing the Catholic Church is encouraged to call the Pastoral Response Hotline at 918-307-4970, which will send callers to a voicemail for people to leave a message.

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