Protecting Children and the Vulnerable

List of friars with substantiated accusations

Updated 19 August 2021

In 2013, the Province underwent an independent audit. At that time, the Province decided to publicly release the names of current, former, and deceased friars with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor. A substantiated claim is one that is confirmed through the friar's own admission, or through the findings of an administrative or criminal justice process. This is not a decision that we made lightly. It was the product of years of periodic reflection, conversation, deliberation and prayer.

1. We hope that the release of these names might help some victims/survivors by validating their experiences and encourage them and others to come forward for help.
2. We hope that along with the transparency in the audit report itself, greater openness about our brothers who have confirmed allegations of sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable adults can underscore the seriousness of our efforts to prevent and better respond to abuse and thus aid the process of healing and the restoration of trust.
3. We hope that releasing these names may aid in accountability and community support, and thus lower the risk of reoffending.

Current members

(Fr.) Arthur Cooney

Assignment History

- Member of Retreat Team, Queen of Angels Retreat Center, Saginaw, MI 1980-1981
- Missioner (transfer to Vice-Province, 1981 1985
- Itinerant Preacher/Diocesan Ministry, Saginaw MI, 1985-1986
- Administrative Leave/Jemez Springs, NM 1986-1986
- Pastoral Ministry, St. Anthony Parish/Saginaw MI, 1986-1990
- Sabbatical/Saginaw MI, 1998-1999
- Itinerant Preaching/St. Anthony Parish/Saginaw MI - 2002-2005z
- Staff/Monte Alverno Retreat Center, Appleton WI-2005-2009
- Removed from public ministry - 2009 to present

(Fr.) Leopold Gleissner
Current members

Assignment History

- St. Felix Friary, Huntington, IN 7/45 – 8/46, Novice
- Mary Immaculate, Garrison, NY 8/46 – 7/49, Cleric
- St. Anthony, Marathon, WI 7/49 – 6/53, Cleric/Student Priest
- St. Bonaventure Friary, Detroit, MI 6/53 – 6/54, Assistant Third Order Director
- St. Francis, Milwaukee, WI 6/54 – 9/56, Director of the Third Order
- Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, 9/56 – 5/57, Missionary Orientation
- Bluefields, Nicaragua, 5/57 – 9/57, Seminary Professor
- Rama, Nicaragua, 9/57 -10/57, Supplier (5 weeks)
- Siuna, Nicaragua, 10/57 – 4/59, Assistant
- Bonanza, Nicaragua, 4/59 – 7/64, Assistant (Third Order Franciscans)
- Bluefields, Nicaragua, 7/64 – 12/64, Supplier as Assistant Procurator
- Bluefields, Nicaragua, 12/64 – 2/67, Assistant: Cathedral (T.O.F. Commissary)
- Siuna, Nicaragua, 2/67 – 8/69, Second Assistant
- Siuna, Nicaragua, 8/69 – 9/72, Quasi Pastor
- Cristo Rey Center, Racine, WI, 10/72 – 8/74, Pastoral Team
- St. Bonaventure Friary, Detroit, MI, 8/74 – 1/75, Assistant Secretary to the Missions/Pastoral Team
- St. Anne Parish, Broken Arrow, OK and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Tulsa OK, 1/75 – 6/77, Associate Pastor and Pastor respectively
- St. Francis of Assisi, Los Angeles, CA, 6/77 – 12/78, Associate Pastor
- Our Lady of Soledad Parish, Coachella, CA, 1/78 – 6/82, Associate Pastor
- Capuchin Community, Warren, MI, 6/82 – 7/83, Health Care
- Sacred Heart Church, Willcox, AZ, 7/83 – 9/83, Help outs waiting for assignment
- St. Joseph Church, Hayden, AZ, 10/83 – 5/88, Pastor Victory Knoll Sisters, Huntington, IN, 8/88 – 9/89, Chaplain
- St. Patrick Church, Ft. Wayne, IN, 9/89 – 4/90, Parochial Vicar/Chaplain/Spiritual Assistant
- Panama, Nicaragua, 4/89 – 6/90, Visit
- St. Paul Parish, Ft. Wayne, IN, 6/90 – 8/91, Hispanic Ministry, Parochial Vicar/Chaplain
- Agnesian Sisters, Nazareth Heights, Fond du Lac, WI, 8/91 – 6/93, Chaplain/Nursing Facility

(Fr.) Joseph Smetana
Current members

Assignment History

- Mary Immaculate Friary/Garrison, NY, 9/50-6/52, Formation
- St. Felix Friary/Huntington, IN, 7/52-7/53, Formation
- St. Anthony Friary/Marathon, WI, 7/53-5/57, Studies
- St. Benedict the Moor Friary/Milwaukee, WI, 8/57-7/58, Pastoral Ministry/Teacher
- St. Joseph Friary/Appleton, WI, 7/58-6/60, Pastoral Ministry/Director: Third Order
- St. Benedict the Moor Monastery, Milwaukee, WI, 6/60-6/65, Pastoral Ministry/Teacher/Chaplain County Jail
- Catholic University/Ponce, Puerto Rico, 6/63-8/63, 6/64-8/64, Spanish studies/Pastoral Ministry Help Out
- Nicaragua, 9/65-8/97, Missioner
- Administrative Leave, Jemez Springs, NM, 7/87-3/88
- St. Francis Community, Milwaukee, WI 8/97, Temporary Resident
- St. Bonaventure Monastery, Detroit, MI, 1/98-9/98, Staff: Mission Office
- Casa San Jose, Tucson, AZ, 9/98-9/99, Staff
- Nicaragua, 4/99-5/99, visit
- St. Francis Friary, Milwaukee, WI, 9/99-2/01, Staff/Help-Out Ministry
- Nicaragua, 6/00-6/00, visit
- Casa San Jose, AZ, 2/01-5/01, Help-Out Ministry
- St. Francis Friary, Milwaukee, WI, 5/01-7/01 Staff/Help-Out
- St. Henry Parish, Eau Galle, WI, 7/01-9/01, Help Out Ministry
- St. Henry Parish, Eau Galle, WI, 12/01-9/02, Parochial Administrator
- Casa San Jose, Tucson, AZ, 9/02-5/04 Staff/In Residence

(Fr.) James Wolf
Current members

Assignment History

- Novice/St. Felix Friary/Huntington IN-1949-1950
- Cleric/Mary Immaculate/Garrison, NY-1950-1952
- Cleric/St. Felix Friary/Huntington, IN-1952-1954
- Cleric/Student Priest/St. Anthony Friary/Marathon, WI-1954-1958
- Ministry Formation/Supply Work/St. Elizabeth Friary/Milwaukee WI-1958-1958
- Pastoral Year/St. Francis Friary/Milwaukee, WI-1958-1959
- Assistant Third Order Director/St. Bonaventure Friary/Detroit, MI-1959-1963
- St. Fidelis Friary, Marquette MI January 1964
- Assigned by Bishop of Marquette to work on the Cause of Bishop Baraga. Named Postulator1967-1975
- Local Minister/St. Fidelis Friary/Marquette, MI-1966-1970
- Local Minister/St. Fidelis Friary/Marquette, MI-1971-1976
- Assigned to North American College, Rome 1973-1975
- Chaplain/Siena Center/Racine WI-1980-1987
- Sabbatical-1987-1988
- Administrative Leave/St. Louis MO-1987-1987
- Colstrip, MT-1988-1994
- Friary Staff/St. Bonaventure Friary/Detroit, MI-1994-2003
- Director: Provincial Archives/St. Bonaventure Friary/Detroit, MI-1995-2003
- Retired/Restricted in Ministry - 2005-present

(Fr.) Robert Harrison

Assignment History

- St. Bonaventure Friary, Detroit, Novice, 8/31/1955 – 9/2/1956
- St. Mary’s Seminary, Crown Point IN, Cleric in Studies, 6/23/1959 – 6/10/1960
- St Francis, Milwaukee WI, Summer Help/Pastoral Course 6/23/1964 – 8/1965
- St. Benedict the Moor, Milwaukee WI, Assistant 8/1965 – 10/1967
- Residence in Bloomington, IN, Student at University of Indiana, 6/1978 – 1978
- New York, New York, City of NY Board of Corrections/Helpouts, 1978
- St. Charles Borromeo, NY, NY, Administrator/Basketball Leadership Program, No dates given
- Pierre Toussaint Residence, NY NY, No dates

(Fr.) Gus Cops
Current members

Assignment History

- Sacred Heard, Baraga, MI, Novice, 8/21/58 - 6/24/59
- St. Felix, Huntington, IN, Novice, 6/25/59 - 9/2/59
- St. Mary, Crown Point, IN, Cleric in studies, 9/2/59 - 6/12/62
- Sacred Heart, Baraga, MI, Novice, 7/27/62 - 8/2/63
- St. Anthony, Marathon, WI, Professorium, 8/3/63 - 4/20/64
- St. Elizabeth, Milwaukee, WI, Porter/Maintenance, 4/22/64 - 8/13/64
- St. Anthony, Marathon, WI, Professorium, 8/13/64 - 10/7/65
- St. Joseph, Appleton, WI, Assistant, 10/7/65 - 5/66
- St. Francis Brothers School, Mt. Calvary, WI, Prefect/Cook/Counselor/Maintenance, 5/66 - 8/70
- Christian Commune House, St. Clair, MI, Retreat Team, 8/70 - 8/73
- St. Bonaventure, Detroit, MI, Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 8/73 - 9/77
- Boston House, Detroit, MI, Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 9/77 - 1981
- Sabbatical, 1981-1982
- St. Fidelis Friary, Appleton, WI, Ministry Formation/Sacred Heart School of Theology, 6/15/82 - 10/16/86
- St. Justin Parish, Chicago, IL, Associate Pastor, 7/15/86 - 6/1/88
- Blessed Sacrament Parish, Lame Deer, MT, Associate Pastor, 6/1/88 - 6/15/90
- St. Elizabeth Parish, Milwaukee, WI, Associate Pastor, 6/15/90 - 1993
- Sabbatical, 1/1/95 (3 months)
- St. Charles/St. Anthony/Our Lady of Sorrows, Detroit, MI, Associate Pastor, 7/1/95 - 3/6/00
- St. Charles Community, Detroit, MI, Healing Ministry, 3/6/00 - 3/1/04
- San Damiano Community, Madison, WI, In-residence/retired, 3/20/04 - 1/15/15
- St. Francis Friary, Milwaukee, WI, In-residence/retired, 1/15/15 - 1/20/20
- St. Fidelis Friary, Milwaukee, WI, In-residence/retired, 1/21/20 - present

Deceased members

(Fr.) Benedict Adams (2002)

Assignment History

- St. Felix Friary/Huntington, IN 8/1950 – 9/1951
- St. Felix Friary/Huntington, IN 7/1952 – 6/1954
- St. Anthony/Marathon, WI 6/1973 – 1975
- St. Anthony Retreat Center/Marathon, WI 1975

(Fr.) Baldwin Beyer (1999)
Deceased members

Assignment History

- St. Elizabeth Friary/Milwaukee, WI 1954 – 1958
- St. Bonaventure Friary/Detroit, MI 1958 – 1959
- St. Felix Friary/Fort Wayne, IN 1961 - ?
- Queen of Angels Retreat/Saginaw, MI 1966 – 1967
- St. Francis Bros. School/ Mt. Calvary, WI 1967 – 1970
- St. Bonaventure Friary/Detroit, MI 1970 – 1973
- Bay City, MI 1973 – 1974 (Alcohol Counselor)
- Sanford, MI 1974 - ? (Alcohol Counselor)

(Fr.) James Buser (1979)

Assignment History

- Huntington, IN (Novitiate)
- St. Lawrence Seminary, Mt. Calvary, WI (only assignment throughout his Capuchin career)

(Fr.) Clarence Grosser (1989)***

(Fr.) Mel Hermanns (2021)

Assignment History

- Sacred Heart Friary, Baraga, WI 8/31/57 - 9/1/58 Novice
- St. Felix Friary, Huntington, IN 9/38 - 6/59 Cleric
- St. Mary’s Seminary, Crown Point, IN 6/59 - 6/61 Cleric
- St. Anthony Friary, Marathon, WI, 6/61 - 8/65 Cleric/Student/Priest
- St. Francis Friary, Milwaukee, WI, 8/65 - 6/66 Pastoral Ministry
- St. Bonaventure Friary, Detroit, MI, 6/66 - 7/74 Assistant Vocation Director
- Boston House, Detroit, MI, 7/74 - 7/75, Assistant Vocation Director (Resident Mode)
- Lemay Street, Detroit, MI
- 8/75 7/76 Vocation Ministry/ Local Superior /Formation Team
- St. John’s/Detroit, MI 8/76 5/77 Director of Pre-Novitiate Team
- St. Bonaventure Friary/Detroit, MI 5/77 8/81 Local Superior/Formation Team
- 1st Street/Milwaukee, WI 8/81 12/1/85
- 1/84 3/84
- Preaching Ministry
- Short Sabbatical
- Institute of Religious Formation/St. Louis, MO / 8/85 6/86 Student
- Ashland, MT 6/86 8/15/86 Visiting
- St. Elizabeth Parish/Milwaukee, WI 8/15/86 4/14/93 Pastor
- Administrative Leave/Jemez Springs, NM 4/14/93 11/12/93
- Monte Alverno Retreat/Appleton, WI 12/1/93 7/1/99 Preaching Ministry/Maintenance
- Our Lady Gate of Heaven Parish/Chicago, IL, with residence with St. Kevin’s Community 7/1/99 7/1/08 Pastor/Semi-Retired
- Sabbatical 7/1/08
- Our Lady Gate of Heaven Parish/Chicago, IL Pastor/Semi-Retired
Deceased members

(Fr.) James LaReau (1987)

Assignment History

- St. Bonaventure, Detroit 8/1952 – 9/1953

(Fr.) Gale Leifeld (1994)

Assignment History

- St. Francis Brothers School, Mt. Calvary, WI
- St. Lawrence, Mt. Calvary, WI
- Sacred Heart School of Theology, Hales Corners

(Br.) Matthew Migan (1958)

(Fr.) Austin Schlaefer (1992)

Assignment History

- St. Mary Sem/Crown Pt, IN 7/1963 – 2/1965
- St. Elizabeth/Milwaukee, WI 2/1965 – 1970
- St. Lawrence, Mt. Calvary, WI 8/1977 – 7/1978
- Blessed Sacrament/Midland, MI 7/1978 – 5/1979
- DePorres Cap Fraternity/Chicago, IL 7/1979 - ?

(Fr.) Wendelin Shafer (2005)

Assignment History

- Bluefields, Nicaragua 1947 – 1950
- Bonanzo, Nicaragua 1/1950 – 1955
- Siuna, Nicaragua 3/5/1953 – 1956
- Rama, Nicaragua 4/5/1956 – 1957
- Bonanzo, Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua 1957 – 1959
- LaCruz, Nicaragua 3/1967
Deceased members

(Fr.) Hilary Zach (1997)

Assignment History

- St. Lawrence/Mt. Calvary, WI 1950 – 1958
- St. Benedict/ Milwaukee, WI 1968 – 1970
- St. Lawrence/ Mt. Calvary, WI 1970 – 1978
- St. Agnes Hospital/Fond du Lac, WI 1978 - ?

(Fr.) Bertold Ascher (1967)

Assignment History

- Detroit, MI 4/1915 – 5/1916
- St. Francis/Milwaukee, WI 5/1916 – 12/1916
- St. Michaels, 12/1916 – 7/1921
- Marathon, WI 7/1921 – 4/1929
- St. Felix Friary/Huntington, IN 4/1929 – 5/1939
- St. Anthony/ Marathon, WI 5/1939 – 4/1942
- St. Labre Mission/ Ashland, MT 4/1942 - ?
- St. Felix/ Huntington, IN 4/1947 – 1951
- St. Anthony/ Marathon, WI 12/1951 – 7/1952
- St. Bonaventure/ Detroit, MI 7/1952 – 2/1956
- St. Labre/ Ashland, MT 4/1956 – 5/1967

(Fr.) Roman Ament (1984)

Assignment History

- Holy Cross/Mt. Calvary, WI 7/1934 – 1936
- St. Bonaventure/Detroit, MI 7/1936 – 7/1937
- St. Felix Friary/Huntington, IN 7/1937 – 1/1938
- St. John’s/New York 1/1938 – 3/1938
- St. Joseph’s Friary/Appleton, WI 4/1938 – 8/1938
- St. Lawrence/Mt. Calvary, WI 8/1938 -7/1939
- Nicaragua 10/1939 – 5/1952
- St. Lawrence/Mt. Calvary, WI 5/1952 – 7/1955
- St. Francis/Milwaukee, WI 7/1955 – 10/1956
- St. Vincent DePaul/Pontiac, MI 1/1969 – 2/1971
- St. Benedict/Milwaukee, WI 2/1971 -4-1971
- St. Patrick, Beaver Dam, WI 4/1971 – 7/1973
- St. Mary’s Seminary/Crown Point, IN 7/1973 – 6/1974
- St. Francis/Milwaukee, WI 9/1974 – 4/1979
- Scottsdale AZ, St. John's Indian Mission (no date)
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish/Guadalupe 4/1979 -1/1984

(Br.) Francis Mary Sparacino (2015)
Deceased members

Assignment History

- St. Bonaventure Monastery/Detroit, MI 9/5/49-3/21/52 Candidate/Novice
- St. Anthony/Marathon, WI 3/21/52 – 2/16/58 Professional Tailor
- Sacred Heart/Baraga, MI 2/16/58 – 6/24/59 Professorium/Cook/Baker
- St. Felix Friary/Huntington, IN 6/25/59 – 5/20/60 Professional Cook
- St. Joseph/Appleton, WI 5/23/60 – 12/19/60 Cook/Sacristan
- St. Bonaventure/Detroit, MI 12/19/60 – 6/1/63 Friary Staff/Cook
- St. Felix Friary/Huntington, IN 6/1/65 – 8/1/71 Friary Staff/Prov. Tailor/Cook
- St. Lawrence Friary/Mt. Calvary, WI 8/1/71 – 5/1/79 Prov. Tailor
- St. Patrick Parish/St. Paul, MN 8/1/79 – 5/1/81 Parish Team/Cook/Sacristan
- Assumption Parish/Fargo, ND 9/81 – 5/82 Parish Team/Cook
- St. Lawrence Seminary/Mt. Calvary, WI 5/82 – 8/22/83 Staff/Study Hall Supervisor/Prov. Tailor
- De Porres Capuchin Community/Chicago, IL 8/22/83 – 1/1/84 Cook
- Sabbatical 1/1/84 -1/1/85
- St. Joseph Friary/Appleton, WI 1/1/85 – 10/15/92 Parish Staff
- St. Patrick Friary/St. Paul MN 10/15/92 – 1/15/95 Parish Staff/Cook for Fraternity
- Living alone, attached to Monte Alverno Community/Appleton, WI 1/15/95 – 6/30/04 Senior Citizen Ministry
- St. Fidelis Friary/Appleton, WI 6/30/04 Retired
- St. Paul Nursing Home/Appleton WI present, No public ministry

(Fr.) Elmer Stoffel (1992)

Assignment History

- St. Elizabeth/Milwaukee, WI 9/1939 – 9/1940
- Sacred Heart/Yonkers, NY 9/1940 -9/1942
- Novice Director/Huntington, IN 9/1942 – 9/1958
- St. Anthony/Saginaw, MI 9/1958 -9/1964
- St. Catherine/L'Anse, MI 9/1971 – 1/1982
- Retired 1982

Former members (deceased)

(Fr.) Jude Hahn (2008)
Former members (deceased)

Assignment History

- Novice/Huntington, IN and St. Bonaventure Detroit, MI 8/1951 – 9/1952
- Student/Huntington, IN 9/1952 – 6/1955
- St. Anthony Friary/Marathon, WI 6/1955 – 5/1959
- St. Francis/Milwaukee, WI 9/1959 – 6/1960
- Holy Cross/Mt. Calvary, WI 6/1960

(Fr.) Emmet Hoffman

Assignment History

- St. Felix/Huntington, IN 2/1945 – 8/1946
- Mary Immaculate/Garrison, NY 8/1946 – 6/1950
- St. Anthony/Marathon, WI 6/1950 – 7/1954
- St. Anthony Church/Culberson, MT 7/1978 – 6/1979
- Incardinated Great Falls, MT 5/1994

Former members

(Br.) Thomas Gardipee

Assignment History

- St. Felix, Huntington 1978 – 1979
- Capuchin Community, Boston Blvd, Detroit 1979-1981
- St. Lawrence, Mt. Calvary 1981 – 6/1982
- St. Lawrence, Mt. Calvary 8/15/1983 - 1992

(Br.) Leonard Gibeault

Assignment History

- St. Felix, Huntington, IN 8/5/1978 – 8/14/1979
- St. Lawrence, Mt. Calvary 8/1/1980 - ?

(Fr.) Donald (John Baptist) Kurcz

Assignment History
**Former members**

(Fr.) Robert Spader

**Assignment History**

- St. Felix, Huntington 9/1955 - 6/1959
- Detroit, MI 6/1963 – 8/1963
- St. Elizabeth, Milwaukee 8/1963 – 4/1964
- Bluefields, Nicaragua 10/1964 – 1976
- Bocana de Paiguas, Nicaragua 1976 – 1978
- St. Bonaventure, Detroit 8/1978 - ?

(Fr.) Kenneth Stewart

**Assignment History**

- St. Felix/Huntington, IN 7/1959 – 9/1960
- Capuchin Seminary of St. Mary/Crown Point, IN 9/1960 – 7/1964
- St. Anthony/Marathon, WI 7/1964 – 6/1968
- St. Lawrence/Mt. Calvary, WI 7/1976 – 8/1977
- St. Fidelis/Milwaukee, WI 5/1982 – 8/1982
- Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center/San Francisco, CA 8/1989 – 1990
- Sabbatical 6/1999 – 9/1999
- St. George/Chicago, IL 9/1999 – 1/2003
- Capuchin Retreat/Washington, MI 1/2003 – 2004
- St. Fidelis Friary/Appleton, WI 2004, restricted and then left
- Order

(Fr.) Dennis Druggan – The finding regarding D. Druggan was made upon a preliminary investigation by the Province (2013). He has maintained his innocence.
Former members

Assignment History

- St. Felix Friary/ Huntington, IN, Novice - 1976 to 1977
- Detroit, MI, Formation, Post Novitiate – 1977 to 1979
- St. Labre Friary/Ashland MT, Formation, Post Novitiate – 1979 – 1981
- DePorres Capuchin Community, Chicago, IL, Theology Student – 1981- 1982
- St. Justin Capuchin Community, Chicago, IL, Ministry Formation – 1983 – 1984
- St. Labre Parish/Ashland, MT, Pastor/Co-Director - 1984 – 1990
- Boston, MA, Studies, 1990
- St. Labre Parish/Ashland, MT – Co-Director/Local Minister - 1990 – 1991
- St. Lawrence Seminary/Mt. Calvary, WI, staff - 1992 – 1994
- St. Lawrence Seminary/Mt. Calvary, WI Rector/Pastor/Chief Exec. Officer – 1994 - 2012

*** Transferred to Province of St. Mary (NY) in 1952.