

# **Grand jury report names 19 accused priests with Valley ties**

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Nearly half of the 45 Harrisburg Diocese officials identified as offenders in the grand jury report unsealed today served in Valley parishes.

At least 19 of the priests served in Selinsgrove, Danville, Milton, Centralia, Shamokin, Mount Carmel, Sunbury, Catawissa, Kulpmont, Locust Gap, Mifflinburg and Lewisburg.

[Click Here to view the grand jury report](#)

All but one of the 19 with local assignments were previously identified in the Diocese's own report released Aug. 1 identifying former clergy and seminarians accused of sex abuse of a child. However, not everyone identified in the Diocese report are named in the grand jury report.

The 800-plus page grand jury report examines allegations against 300 Catholic leaders in six Pennsylvania Dioceses — Allentown, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Scranton. They're accused either directly of abusing children or attempting to cover-up allegations.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ordered the release of the report, pushed for by state Attorney General Josh Shapiro. Some of the information was redacted by court order under challenge by clergy members. That information could later be revealed by order of the state high court as the legal challenges are pending.

The late Lawrence R. Overbaugh was included in an early

digital copy of the grand jury report obtained by CNHI Pennsylvania newspapers on Monday. His name appears to have been redacted in the report released Tuesday.

Overbaugh served as both associate and assistant pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in Mount Carmel, was a principal at the former Mount Carmel Catholic High School and had also been an assistant pastor at the former St. Edward parish in Shamokin. The Diocese appointed him administrator pro-tem of St. Monica parish in Sunbury in May 2007. He died at the age of 78 on Feb. 23, 2008, and his assignments were included in an obituary published in the Hanover Evening Sun.

Overbaugh's brother, Hugh, also is named in the grand jury report but not among alleged offenders. The retired Catholic priest, who also was given the title monsignor, was in a leadership role with the Harrisburg Diocese and is identified among officials who allegedly mishandled allegations of abuse. It's not clear from online information if he served in the Valley. Like his brother,

Hugh Overbaugh was not named in the Harrisburg Diocese's report.

Paul Helwig and Chancellor Carol Houghton, like Hugh Overbaugh, were identified as church leaders who handled allegations on behalf of the Harrisburg Diocese.

The following men named in the grand jury report served in Valley parishes. All were previously said by the Harrisburg Diocese either to be deceased or no longer in ministry: John G. Allen, Francis A. Bach, James Beeman, Donald Cramer, Walter Emala, T. Ronald Haney, George Koychick, Thomas Kujovsky, Thomas Lawler, Arthur Long, Robert Maher, Daniel Mahoney, Anthony McGinley, Joseph Pease, Charles Procopio, Patrick Shannon, Carl J. Steffen, Salvatore V. Zangari.

Additional church leaders from the Harrisburg Diocese named in the grand jury report who don't appear to have served in the Valley are Francis J. Allen, Jesus Barajas, Richard J. Barry, John Bostwick, Paul R. Fisher, Augustine Giella, Donald "Tim" Hackman, John Herber, Philip

Hower, Kevin Kayda, Edward Konat, Robert Logue, David H. Luck, Guy Marsico, John M. McDevitt, James McLucas, Ibarra Mercado, Guido Miguel Quiroz Reyes, James Rush, Bryan Schlager, Herbert Shank, Timothy Sperber and Frederick Vaughan.

Two of the 45 alleged offenders had their names identified as "Priest #1" and "Priest #2" and two others were blacked out.