

Diocese of Paterson

List of Those Diocesan Priests and Deacons Credibly Accused of the Sexual Abuse of Minors

Cached on 6/18/22 from <https://rcdop.org/list>

SCHEDULE A

Set forth in the following pages are the names of 28 individuals who served as priests or deacons of the Diocese of Paterson. The Diocese has found that each of these persons has been credibly accused of illegal sexual abuse involving minors. In the cases of several of the 28 individuals, they were also convicted of a criminal offense. As to others on the list, the Diocese of Paterson received information concerning possible misconduct by the individual, investigated the matter for corroborating evidence and determined that the report was credible. Accordingly, while those individuals may deny having engaged in illegal behavior involving a minor and they are entitled to be presumed innocent in a criminal court of law, the Diocese has determined that the information it received was credible and it has thus included their names on this disclosure.

Many of the credibly accused are deceased. As to the remainder, due to the serious nature of the allegations and the finding that each of these individuals was credibly accused, all of those individuals have been laicized and/or had their diaconate or priestly faculties suspended. The 28 names listed are based on the information known to the Diocese of Paterson at this time. As additional information is gathered and accused individuals are afforded due process, more individuals may be added to this list. We intend to publish those names as well.

This is not the first time that most of these names have been disclosed. These and other reports of abuse were previously reported by the Diocese of Paterson to law enforcement authorities for further investigation and, if they deemed it appropriate, prosecution. A number of these individuals were made known to law enforcement authorities in the 1980's and 1990's. Additionally, in May 2002, the Diocese of Paterson issued a comprehensive disclosure to law enforcement authorities in all three (3) counties in which the Diocese is located (Passaic, Morris and Sussex), disclosing all known allegations of child sex abuse involving Diocese of Paterson clergy that the Diocese was able to identify. Such disclosures became part of our standard operating procedures thereafter. Since 2002, every report received by the Diocese of possible sexual assault of a minor by a deacon, priest, clergy, teacher, or employee of the Diocese of Paterson, has been timely reported to law enforcement authorities in order to ensure transparency in handling such matters.

In some cases, due to the lapse of time (some incidents of abuse have been reported decades after the abuse had allegedly occurred), the death of the alleged abuser, a victim's lack of recollection concerning the identity of the individual or details of the accusations, or in some cases due to an understandable reluctance of victims to identify themselves, the Diocese of Paterson has not yet determined that a priest or deacon was credibly accused. However, whether a report of child abuse by a priest or deacon was deemed credible or not, the Diocese has taken these reports seriously. To that end, the Diocese has already disclosed all of those

reports (and many others) to county and state law enforcement authorities for further investigation. The Diocese is continuing its review as well.

The protocol in instances involving sexual abuse of a minor is to immediately suspend the priest or deacon from public ministry or from any job that would generally involve contact with children, and to interview the accused concerning the allegation. If there are doubts as to whether the accused committed the act, he is subject to examination by outside experts, he is subject to review by a Diocesan Review Board and, if needed, he is subject to a trial per Canon Law.

The names of priests and deacons from the Diocese of Paterson, including those listed here, also were previously published in civil complaints filed both before and after 2002. Many of those cases were settled with the plaintiffs and their attorneys through common settlement agreements. The Diocese of Paterson will in no way try to shield those names from public disclosure or disclosure to law enforcement. Instead, since 2002, no settlement agreement in such cases provides for any confidentiality. In other words, the victims and their attorneys have been free to speak publicly, to name the alleged perpetrator and even to disclose the settlement amount.

Moreover, the Diocese of Paterson declared in 2002 that, regardless of when any settlement agreement was entered, the Diocese would not seek to enforce any confidentiality clause contained in any settlement agreement involving child sex abuse by clergy. At all times, we have respected the victims' wishes. We simultaneously reported the allegations to law enforcement. We took action against perpetrators. This included suspending their priestly or diaconate faculties and/or seeking their laicization. This ensured that the alleged perpetrator could never be understood to be a priest or deacon in good standing nor in a position to commit such abuse as a priest or deacon in good standing.

Additionally, the Diocese of Paterson is requesting that any person who was the victim of sexual abuse by a Diocese of Paterson priest, deacon, teacher or employee, please contact the Attorney General's Hotline at 855-363-6548 and/or the Paterson Diocese at (973) 777-8818 to report the name of any individual priest, deacon, teacher or employee of the Diocese who you believe has engaged in the illegal sexual abuse of a minor, regardless of whether the individual is still working for the Diocese. Through such disclosures by victims, it is the intention and expectation of the Diocese that all perpetrators of child abuse within the Diocese be identified and, to the extent they have not already been removed, to remove them from their duties.

Finally, we wish to note that certain Catholic priests or deacons who have no formal connection under The Code of Canon Law or civil law with the Diocese of Paterson and do not fall under the ecclesiastical governance of the Diocese of Paterson, including those associated with particular religious orders or congregations that operate parishes or Catholic schools geographically located within the territory of the Diocese of Paterson, have been accused of acts involving the sexual abuse of minors. It is understood that some religious orders or congregations have already publicly disclosed, or intend to publicly disclose in the near future, a list of their members who have been credibly accused of such acts. This Schedule A does not include the names of individuals from those religious orders or congregations.

Names of Those Determined to Be Credibly Accused

Name: Jose Alonso
 Born: June 13, 1940
 Ordained: 1968
 Status: Deceased — September 29, 2003
 Accusations: Multiple
 Assignments:

- St. Agnes, Paterson
 - St. John Cathedral
 - Our Lady of Victories, Paterson
 - St. John Cathedral
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Name: Charles Bradley
 Born: March 12, 1942
 Ordained: June 28, 1968
 Status: Removed from Ministry - 1995
 Accusations: One
 Assignments:

- St. John Cathedral, Paterson
 - Neumann House, Wayne
 - Faculty, Paterson Catholic High School, Paterson
 - Faculty/Chaplain, Bayley-Ellard High School, Madison
 - Our Lady of Consolation, Wayne
 - Faculty, DePaul Catholic High School, Wayne
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Name: George Costigan
 Born: October 2, 1926
 Ordained: May 25, 1974
 Status: Removed from Ministry - April 28, 1994
 Deceased - September 21, 2015
 Accusations: One
 Assignments:

- Chaplain, Dover General Hospital, Dover
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Name: Absalom Coutinho
 Born: December 2, 1944
 Ordained: April 23, 1972
 Status: Removed from Ministry April 20, 2002
 Accusations: Multiple
 Assignments:

- St. Jude, Budd Lake
 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Boonton
 - Immaculate Heart of Mary, Wayne
 - Annunciation, Wayne
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Name: William Cramer
 Born: December 26, 1951
 Ordained: May 14, 1977
 Status: Removed from Ministry —June 2002
 Accusations: Multiple
 Assignments:

- Our Lady of the Lake, Sparta
 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Boonton
 - Chaplain, St. Joseph Hospital, Paterson
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Name: Francis Dennehy
 Born: February 28, 1925
 Ordained: June 3, 1950
 Status: Deceased — August 10, 1995
 Accusations: Multiple
 Assignments:

- Our Lady of Victories, Paterson
 - Chaplain U.S. Navy
 - Assumption, Morristown
 - Chaplain, St. Joseph Hospital, Paterson
 - St. Nicholas, Passaic
 - St. Vincent DePaul, Stirling
 - St. Therese, Paterson
 - St. Pius X, Montville
 - St. Thomas, Ogdensburg
 - St. Christopher, Parsippany
 - Immaculate Conception, Franklin
 - Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral, Honolulu, Hawaii
 - Chaplain, Wayne General Hospital and Chilton Hospital, Wayne
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Name: John Derricks
Born: August 5, 1916
Ordained: June 7, 1941
Status: Deceased — November 17, 2010
Accusations: One
Assignments:

- St. Joseph, Paterson
 - Holy Spirit, Pequannock
 - Assumption, Morristown
-

Name: Stanislaus Durka
Born: October 23, 1914
Ordained: June 25, 1939
Status: Deceased — June 21, 1983
Accusations: One
Assignments:

- St. Virgil, Morris Plains
 - St. Joseph, Passaic
 - St. Stephen, Paterson
 - St. Joseph, Passaic
 - St. Thomas, Ogdensburg
-

Name: Patrick Erwin
Born: January 10, 1943
Ordained: December 21, 1967
Status: Removed from Ministry — November 15, 2004
Deceased — December 8, 2017
Accusations: Multiple
Assignments:

- St. Gerard Majella, Paterson
 - St. Joseph, Paterson
 - Director, Catholic Community Center
 - Social Action Department (in residence – Our Lady of Victories, Paterson)
 - Director, Office for Pastoral Planning
 - Service outside the Diocese
 - Our Lady of Fatima, Highland Lakes
 - St. Mary, Paterson
 - Service outside the Diocese
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Name: Carlos Guzman
 Born: December 6, 1946
 Ordained: 1981
 Status: Removed from Ministry — October 20, 1981
 Accusations: Multiple
 Assignments:

- St. John Cathedral, Paterson
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Name: James Hanley
 Born: August 26, 1936
 Ordained: May 26, 1962
 Status: Removed from Ministry — February 1986
 Laicized — February 7, 2003
 Accusations: Multiple
 Assignments:

- St. Andrew, Clifton
 - Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pompton Plains
 - St. Christopher, Parsippany
 - St. Joseph, Mendham
 - Immaculate Heart of Mary, Wayne
 - In service, Diocese of Albany
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Name: John Heekin
 Born: September 19, 1937
 Ordained: 1963
 Status: Removed from Ministry — November 17, 2011
 Deceased - July 1, 2018
 Accusations: Multiple
 Assignments:

- St. Mary, Paterson
 - St. Pius X, Montville
 - St. Therese, Paterson
 - Faculty, Bayley-Ellard High School, Madison
 - Faculty, Pope Pius XII High School, Passaic
 - Immaculate Conception, Franklin
 - Holy Cross, Wayne
-

Name: John Hewetson
Born: January 9, 1904
Ordained: June 8, 1930
Status: Deceased – February 12, 1987
Accusations: Multiple
Assignments:

- Our Lady of Victories, Paterson
 - St. Cecilia, Rockaway
 - St. Joseph, Paterson
 - Western Sussex Missions, Lafayette
 - St. Joseph, Lincoln Park
 - St. Joseph, Newton
 - St. George, Paterson
 - St. Vincent de Paul, Stirling
 - St. Joseph, Mendham
 - St. Michael, Netcong
 - St. Paul, Clifton
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Name: Jose Lopez
Born: January 14, 1979
Ordained: May 28, 2011
Status: Removed from Ministry -July 9, 2013
Accusations: One
Assignments:

- St. Mary and St. Nicholas, Passaic
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Name: Peter McBride
Born: May 30, 1935
Ordained: June 11, 1960
Status: Removed from Ministry — October 1, 1994
Accusations: Multiple
Assignments:

- St. Virgil, Morris Plains
 - St. Clare, Clifton
 - St. Peter, Parsippany
 - St. Andrew, Clifton
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Name: William Mockus
Born: June 24, 1945
Ordained: May 4, 1974
Status: Removed from Ministry — 1995
Deceased — July 24, 2014
Accusations: One
Assignments:

- Our Lady of the Valley, Wayne
 - Our Lady of Mercy, Whippany
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Name: Joseph Molloy
Born: 1927
Ordained: 1953
Status: Deceased - June 25, 2000
Accusations: Multiple
Assignments:

- St. Nicholas, Passaic
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Name: Marcin Nurek
Born: March 16, 1979
Ordained: July 1, 2017
Status: Removed from Ministry — August 3, 2017
Accusations: One
Assignments:

- St. Catherine of Siena, Mountain Lakes
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Name: John Pisarcik
 Born: March 18, 1944
 Ordained: May 30, 1970
 Status: Removed from Ministry — October 8, 1991
 Accusations: Multiple
 Assignments:

- Teacher, Morris Catholic High School, Denville – Residence at St. Pius X, Montville
 - St. Cecelia, Rockaway
 - Principal, Neumann Prep, Wayne
 - Principal, Morris Catholic High School, Denville
 - St. Cecelia, Rockaway
 - Faculty, Christ the King Seminary, E. Aurora, NY
 - Vice Principal, Bayley-Ellard High School, Madison
 - Chaplain, St. Francis Health Resort Complex, Denville
 - Sacred Heart, Rockaway
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Name: Walter Pruschowitz
 Born: December 13, 1928
 Ordained: May 27, 1961
 Status: Deceased — February 21, 2004
 Accusations: Multiple
 Assignments:

- Holy Trinity, Passaic
 - Immaculate Conception, Franklin
 - Holy Trinity Passaic
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Name: James Scott
 Born: November 20, 1948
 Ordained: May 4, 1974
 Status: Removed from Ministry - 1995
 Accusations: One
 Assignments:

- Faculty, Paul VI High School, Clifton
 - Our Lady Star of the Sea, Lake Hopatcong
 - Faculty, Pope John High School, Sparta
 - Faculty, DePaul High School, Wayne
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Name: James A.D. Smith
Born: February 21, 1931
Ordained: May 26, 1956
Status: Deceased — January 27, 2015
Accusations: Multiple
Assignments:

- St. Anthony, Hawthorne
 - Holy Family, Florham Park
 - Chaplain, St. Joseph Hospital
 - St. Monica, Sussex (summer assistant)
 - Our Lady of Victories, Paterson
 - St. Monica, Sussex
 - St. Christopher, Parsippany
 - St. Rose of Lima, East Hanover
 - St. Patrick, Chatham
 - St. George, Paterson
 - St. Therese, Succasunna
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Name: Ralph Sodano
Born: March 13, 1941
Ordained: May 27, 1967
Status: Removed from Ministry — April 20, 2002
Deceased — October 22, 2008
Accusations: Multiple
Assignments:

- St. Brendan, Clifton
 - Diocesan Director of Catholic Scouting
 - Teacher, Pope Pius XII High School, Passaic
 - St. Rose of Lima, East Hanover
 - Chaplain, United States Navy
 - Sacred Heart, Dover
 - Our Lady of the Mountain, Long Valley
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Name: Allen Stepien
 Born: December 28, 1936
 Ordained: May 29, 1965
 Status: Removed from Ministry — April 20, 2002
 Accusations: Multiple
 Assignments:

- St. Rose of Lima, East Hanover
 - Assumption, Morristown
 - St. Anthony, Hawthorne
 - St. Philip, Clifton
 - St. Mark, Long Valley
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Name: John Sutton
 Born: November 25, 1943
 Ordained: 1970
 Status: Deceased — 2000
 Accusations: One
 Assignments:

- St. Andrew, Clifton
 - St. Agnes, Paterson
 - Chaplain, St. Joseph :Hospital
 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Swartswood
 - St. Patrick, Chatham
 - Excardinated/Incardinated Diocese of Palm Beach
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Name: Ronald Tully
 Born: May 19, 1937
 Ordained: November 19, 1966
 Status: Removed from Ministry — May 12, 2004
 Laicized — January 22, 2016
 Deceased — November 29, 2018
 Accusations: Multiple
 Assignments:

- Faculty, Pope Pius High School, Passaic
 - Director, Pope Pius High School, Passaic
 - Vice Principal/Teacher, Pope Pius High School, Passaic
 - Co Principal, Pope Pius High School, Passaic
 - St. Rose of Lima, East Hanover
 - Immaculate Conception, Franklin
 - St. Joseph, Lincoln Park
 - Sacred Heart, Dover
-

Name: John Wall
Born: April 29, 1929
Ordained: 1954
Status: Deceased 1983
Accusations: One
Assignments:

- St. Virgil, Morris Plains
 - Chaplain, St. Mary Hospital, Passaic
 - Our Lady Queen of Peace, Branchville
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Name: Gregory White
Born: August 3, 1969
Ordained: November 30, 1996
Status: Deceased — May 10, 2002
Accusations: One
Assignments:

- Blessed Kateri, Sparta
 - St. Anthony, Hawthorne
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Name: William Winston
Born: December 14, 1954
Ordained: December 13, 1986
Status: Removed from Ministry — November 4, 2004
Laicized — August 2007
Accusations: One
Assignments:

- Corpus Christi, Chatham
- St. Patrick, Chatham
- Assumption, Morristown
- St. Virgil, Morris Plains