



The Catholic Diocese of Belleville
Clergy with Credible Allegations of Sexual Misconduct

Below is The Catholic Diocese of Belleville's list of clergy who have been the subject of credible allegations of sexual misconduct of minors or serious sexual misconduct with adults. The Diocese is providing this list, along with the status of the clergy member, with the prayerful intention and hope that individuals who may have been affected by childhood sexual abuse will find it helpful to their healing and recovery.

The Catholic Diocese of Belleville has endeavored to make this list as complete and accurate as possible. However, the information appearing in it is subject to change when and if additional information is received.

The Diocese encourages anyone with information about alleged sexual misconduct by a priest or other diocesan personnel to contact law enforcement and call the Hotline number: 1-800-640-3044.

Incardinated Clergy of the Diocese of Belleville

<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Status</u>
Fr. Paul J. Bruening <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Rose of Lima, Metropolis St. Paul, Vienna St. Ann, Nashville	May, 1965	<i>Died on December 23, 1978</i>
Fr. James R. Calhoun <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Bruno, Pinckneyville St. Luke, Belleville St. Peter, Belleville St. Catherine, Grand Chain Our Lady of Fatima, Ullin Our Lady of Lourdes, Sparta St. Anthony, Coulterville Blessed Sacrament, Belleville St. Boniface, Germantown	May 3, 1955	Removed from ministry March 18, 1993; <i>Died on May 26, 1996</i>
Fr. Robert Chlopecki <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Herrin St. Albert, Fairview Heights St. Stephen, Caseyville Our Lady of Good Counsel, Renault St. Aloysius/Sacred Heart, Royalton/Ziegler St. Mary, Mound City St. Catherine, Grand Chain Our Lady of Fatima, Ullin	June 8, 1974	Removed from ministry April 25, 1993

<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Status</u>
St. Ann, Nashville		
Fr. David G. Crook <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Herrin Holy Spirit, Carterville St. Teresa, Belleville St. Mary, Mt. Vernon St. Rose, Metropolis St. Philip, East St. Louis St. George, New Baden	June 6, 1981	Removed from ministry March 30, 1993
Fr. Edwin G. Kastner <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> Blessed Sacrament, Belleville St. Clare, O'Fallon St. Barbara, Okawville St. Elizabeth, Ava St. Ann, Raddle St. Joseph, Willisville St. Mary, Mound City St. Joseph, Lebanon St. Mary, Valmeyer St. Rose, St. Rose	May 15, 1951	Removed from ministry September 13, 1993; <i>Died on May 1, 2012</i>
Fr. Raymond Kownacki <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Clare, O'Fallon St. Adalbert, East St. Louis St. Joseph, Freeburg St. Francis Xavier, St. Francisville St. Martin of Tours, Washington Park St. Theresa of Avila, Salem St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Kinmundy St. Joseph, Cobden St. Mary, Harrisburg St. Patrick, Tipton Immaculate Conception, Madonnaville St. Mary, Valmeyer	June 4, 1960	Removed from ministry January 13, 1995; laicized January 11, 2013; <i>Died on August 19, 2022</i>
Fr. Eugene G. Linnemann <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> Blessed Sacrament, Belleville St. Albert, Fairview Heights St. Patrick, Ruma St. Leo, Modoc	June 7, 1980	Removed from ministry May 9, 1993; <i>Died on March 1, 2011</i>

<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Status</u>
Fr. Walter E. MacPherson <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Martin of Tours, Washington Park St. Joseph, Prairie du Rocher St. Michael, Paderborn	May 3, 1955	Removed from ministry February 4, 1994; <i>Died on July 16, 2011</i>
Fr. Thomas W. Miller <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Joseph, Olney St. Clare, O'Fallon St. Mary, Anna	May 28, 1977	<i>Died January 6, 2004</i>
Fr. Arthur W. Niemeyer <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Peter, Belleville St. Luke, Belleville St. Theresa of Avila, Salem St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Kinmundy Holy Family, Cahokia	May 4, 1949	<i>Died April 26, 1988</i>
Fr. Louis Peterson <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Augustine, Belleville St. Mary, Belleville St. Edward, Fairfield St. Sebastian, St. Sebastian Holy Family, Cahokia St. Teresa, Belleville	June 8, 1974	Removed from ministry January 24, 1994
Fr. Jerome Ratermann <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> Immaculate Conception, Centreville St. Henry, East St. Louis St. Henry, Belleville St. John, West Frankfort St. Joseph, Prairie du Rocher Saints Peter & Paul, Waterloo Blessed Sacrament, Belleville	June 1, 1957	Removed from ministry March 5, 1993
Fr. Alan Ruppert <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Mary, Mt. Carmel St. Teresa, Belleville St. Dominic, Breese Immaculate Conception, Centreville St. Philip, Centreville St. Philip, East St. Louis Holy Rosary, Fairmont City	June 3, 1978	Removed from ministry October 19, 1998

<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Status</u>
St. Clement, McLeansboro St. John Nepomucene, Dahlgren		
Msgr. Joseph R. Schwaegel <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Mary, Trenton St. Bernard, Albers St. Peter, Belleville St. Mary, Belleville	May 1, 1965	Removed from ministry December 6, 1994; <i>Died on July 13, 2016</i>
Fr. Gary Sebescak <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Mary, Mt. Vernon	June 4, 1994	Removed from ministry April 24, 1995
Deacon Francis Theis <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Augustine, Canterbury	Oct. 19, 1980	Removed from ministry May 5, 1993; <i>Died on July 13, 2010</i>
Fr. Robert Vonnahmen <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Patrick, East St. Louis St. Philip, East St. Louis St. Joseph, Elizabethtown	May 26, 1956	Removed from ministry March 18, 1993; laicized April 23, 2007; <i>Died on May 8, 2016</i>

Removed from Ministry After 2002:

<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Status</u>
Fr. Edward Balestrieri <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Joseph, Marion St. Joseph, Cobden Immaculate Conception, Shawneetown St. Patrick, Pond Settlement St. Mary Magdalen, Todd's Mill St. Paul, Vienna St. Francis de Sales, Stonefort St. Mary, Sesser	June 6, 1959	Removed from ministry May 1, 2002; <i>Died on September 10, 2012</i>
Fr. Gerald R. Hechenberger <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Joseph, Olney St. Joseph, Stringtown St. Sebastian, Fairfield Holy Family, Cahokia Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dupo St. John the Baptist, Smithton Holy Childhood, St. Libory	June 1, 1996	Removed from ministry January 10, 2018; <i>Died on March 6, 2020</i>

<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Status</u>
Fr. Anthony O. Onyango <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> Holy Trinity, Fairview Heights St. Stephen, Caseyville St. Teresa, Belleville St. Luke, Belleville St. Damian, Damiansville St. Bernard, Albers	June 11, 2011	Removed from ministry October 21, 2020; laicized April 13, 2022
Fr. William Rensing <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Peter, Belleville St. Pancratius, Favetteville Our Lady of the Assumption, Fairview Heights Our Lady of Lourdes, Sparta	May 3, 1955	Removed from ministry October 21, 2002; <i>Died on March 13, 2017</i>

Religious Order and Extern Clergy Who Served in the Diocese

Members of religious orders and clergy who have been incardinated in a different diocese (referred to as “extern clergy”) may at times reside or be assigned to minister in the Diocese. Such religious order and extern clerics remain subject at all times to the supervision and authority of the religious order or the “originating” diocese where they were incardinated. Accordingly, the below list consists of religious order and extern clergy who were assigned to minister in, or had another meaningful connection with, the Diocese and who were determined by their respective religious order or originating diocese to have been credibly accused of childhood sexual abuse. Additional inquiries about these clerics should be directed to their religious order or originating diocese.

Real “Ray” Bourque, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province
-Deceased

Michael Charland, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

Donald J. Dummer, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

James V. Fitzgerald, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

Eugene T. Fitzsimmons, The Marianists
-Deceased

Charles E. Gaiter, Jesuits U.S. Central & Southern Province
-Deceased

Paul Kabat, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province
-Deceased

Larry Lorenzoni, Selesians of St. John Bosco

-Deceased

Patrick J. McNulty, The Marianists

-Deceased

Louis J. Meinhardt, The Marianists

-Deceased

Thomas G. Meyer, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

-Deceased

Orville L. Munie, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

-Deceased

Gavin O'Connor, Diocese of Bridgeport, Connecticut

Anthony J. Pistone, The Marianists

-Deceased

Raymond A. Prybis, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

Thomas P. Purcell, The Marianists

Kenneth Roberts, Diocese of Dallas, Texas

-Deceased

Francis Skube, Brothers of Christ the King

Emil Twardochleb, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

-Deceased

Gerald M. Weber, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

John Wielebski, Archdiocese of Baltimore, Maryland and Order of the Most Holy Trinity

As in the case of clergy incardinated in our Diocese, we have endeavored to make the above list of religious order and extern clergy as complete and accurate as possible. However, the information appearing in it is subject to change when and if additional information is received.