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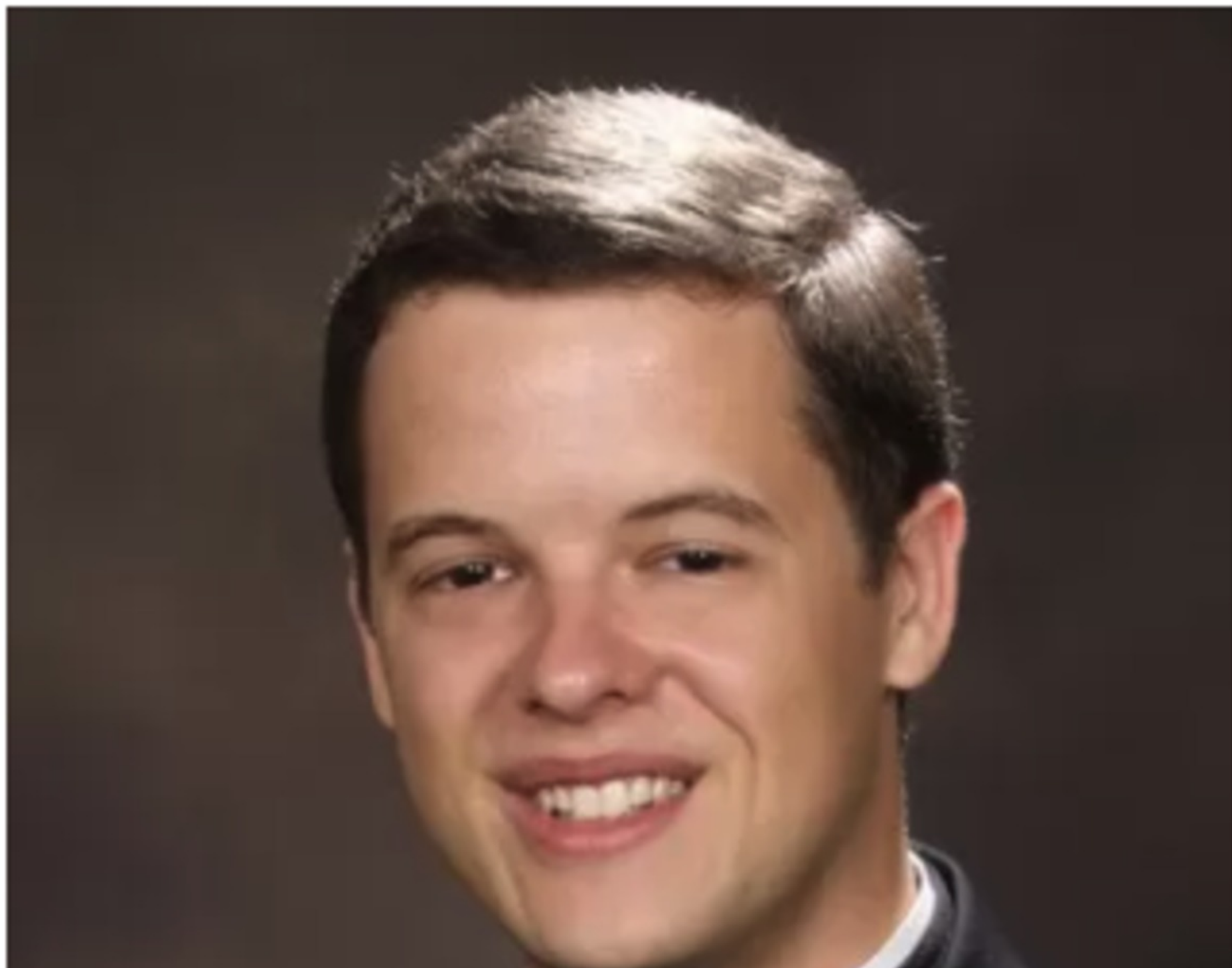
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Diocese of Worcester's Fr. Alan Martineau charged with 3 counts of indecent assault

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Father Alan J. Martineau (Diocese of Worcester)



By **Kiernan Dunlop** | KDunlop@masslive.com

A Diocese of Worcester priest with a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor against him faced charges in February of three counts of indecent assault and battery on a person 14 years old or older, according to court documents.

Worcester Bishop Robert J. McManus determined the allegation of abuse of a minor against Father Alan J. Martineau was credible at the end of last year.

The diocese placed Martineau, 31, on administrative leave in January 2022 and he is still on administrative leave, according to a diocese spokesperson. While he is on administrative leave, Martineau cannot present himself as a priest.

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The diocese informed both the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and law enforcement about the allegations against Martineau in February 2022, according to a press statement from the diocese.

A criminal complaint was issued against Martineau in January, according to court documents, and he was arrested on the indecent assault charges.

Martineau is accused of committing the indecent assaults from around August 2019 through January 2021 “on a person who had attained age 14” without their consent, court documents said.

He was arraigned in East Brookfield District Court on Feb. 2, where he pleaded not guilty to the charges and was released on his own personal recognizance.

- **Read more:** [Worcester Diocese has received 173 credible allegations of clergy sex abuse since 1950](#)

The court documents detailing the facts of the case against Martineau have been impounded.

Before he was placed on leave, Martineau was scheduled to be transferred to a new parish to “benefit from the tutelage of a seasoned pastor because of concerns over boundary issues with a minor, and for other pastoral issues,” according to the diocese.

But before that reassignment took place, more information was reported to the diocese that prompted McManus to place Martineau on leave, suspend his faculties to function publicly as a priest, and begin an independent investigation, the diocese said.

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Martineau was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Worcester in June 2018. He served as a temporary associate pastor at St. Anne's Parish in Shrewsbury before returning to Rome for advanced studies. In July 2020, he was appointed administrator of St. Paul's Parish in Warren and St. Stanislaus' Parish in West Warren.

According to the Catholic Free Press, Martineau is a graduate of St. John's High School in Shrewsbury and Assumption University in Worcester.

In an interview with the paper, Martineau said that, when he was considering becoming a priest, some of his fellow high school students said, "You're signing up to be a pedophile."

In February, McManus released an updated report on clerical sexual abuse of minors in the diocese.

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The diocese has received 209 allegations of clergy sex abuse since its founding in 1950 through 2022, according to the report — 173 were found credible, 20 were unsubstantiated or unable to be proven and eight were deemed false or withdrawn.

The diocese was criticized by advocates for survivors of clergy sexual abuse for not including a list naming the clergy credibly accused. The diocese has told MassLive in the past that "there is no public precedent" for the publishing of lists of priests credibly accused of sexual abuse.

The allegation against Martineau was the first allegation in 24 years claiming sexual abuse of a minor by a Worcester diocesan priest, the diocese said in December.