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Diocese bars retired Lansford priest from ministry

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Halabura

Published September 27, 2019 01:41PM

The Rev. Stephen J. Halabura, 87, who has been retired for 11 years, has been found unsuitable for ministry after an investigation of an incident that Father Halabura self-reported to the Diocese of Allentown.

In May 2019, Halabura admitted sexually abusing a minor in the early 1980s.

After Halabura self-reported the incident, Bishop Alfred Schlert removed Halabura from ministry, and law enforcement was notified.

As the result of the Diocese's investigation, conducted by an independent investigator, the allegation was determined to be credible. The Independent Review Board, a panel of experts that advises the bishop on clergy abuse matters, recently recommended that Father Halabura was unsuitable for ministry. Bishop Schlert accepted the recommendation. Father Halabura remains barred from ministry.

Halabura's name has been added to the list of credibly accused priests on the diocesan web page, <https://sp.allentowndiocese.org/priests>

The incident occurred at the former St. Anthony of Padua parish in Millmont, which was later closed and merged into St. John Baptist de la Salle in Shillington.

Halabura was ordained in May 1961. Since his retirement, he had been serving as a substitute priest when needed.

He served in the following locations: St. Canicus in Mahanoy City, from 1961 – 1963; St. Stephen in Port Carbon, 1963 – 1964; St. Paul, Allentown, 1964 – 1971; St. Anthony, Millmont, 1971 – 1984; St. Stanislaus, Minersville, 1984 – 1987; Annunciation, Shenandoah, 1987-1988; St. Ann in Lansford, 1988-2002, Ss. Peter and Paul, Lansford, 1988-2002, and St. Richard, Barnesville, 2002-2008.

Anyone who knows of incidents of abuse, in the Church or elsewhere, should report it to the State Child Line at 1-800-932-0313 or to local law enforcement. To speak directly to the Diocese of Allentown's Victim Assistance Coordinator, call her direct line: 1-800-791-9209.

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Comments

JOE (/USER/1061)

Fri, 09/27/2019 - 14:16

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(/comment/10758#comment-10758)

This is what happens when we stray from God as a country.....oh wait, nevermind

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COUNTRY GIRL (/USER/3250)

Fri, 09/27/2019 - 15:47

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(/comment/10765#comment-10765)

PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro's investigation has identified about 1000 victims of abuse. Other states are following his lead with their own investigations. Thank God for people like him and his team, that truly care and follow through on issues of the forgotten.

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TONY FRANTZ (/USER/3596)

Fri, 09/27/2019 - 18:52

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(/comment/10771#comment-10771)

Why is the church even a thing anymore ? Seriously the RC Church has easily 10000 cases of child rape and torture under their belt and the American evangelical community isn't much farther behind, Hitchens was right when he said religion gets a pass on evil because it's cloaked as religion, it's time we leave these predatory establishments in mass and watch churches go bankrupt

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GTONUT (/USER/1459)

Mon, 09/30/2019 - 14:47

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(/comment/10848#comment-10848)

It's long overdue for these offenders to pay the price. It's been going on for hundreds and hundreds of years. Who else gets away with this shit for so long? NO ONE!

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GINGER GRANT (/USER/2584)

Wed, 10/02/2019 - 14:02

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(/comment/10942#comment-10942)

"self reported"? Yes bc he's freaking 87 yrs old and afraid of what's going to happen to him once he dies! He performed my marriage back in the 80s and gave me some grief bc only my husband was Catholic, made me promise that if we ever had children they'd b raised in the church.