



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA

Home » Diocesan Safe Environment Program

DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (USCCB)

[Child & Youth Protection](#)

RESOURCES

Victim Assistance Program:
A Compassionate Response to Sexual Abuse
[Brochure](#)

Programa de Asistencia a las Víctimas:
Una Respuesta Compasiva al Abuso Sexual
[Folleto](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Should you suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, please contact these 24-hour hotline numbers:

Department of Children and Family Services
(800) 252-2873

Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline
(309) 677-7082

Diocesan Contact
Dr. Jerry Sanderson

(309) 671-1550

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESS RELEASES, AND NEWS ARTICLES

[Bishop's Promulgation Letter](#)

Bishop Louis Tylka - October 28, 2022

[Diocese of Peoria Responds to Report of Illinois Attorney](#)

[General Lisa Madigan](#)

The Catholic POST - December 19, 2018

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- [Diocese of Peoria Statement Summarizing Misconduct Policies](#)
- [Sexual Abuse Allegation Policy](#)
- [Diócesis de Peoria Políticas y Procedimientos Relacionados con Acusaciones de Abuso Sexual de Menores](#)
- [Harassment Policy](#)
- [Communications Policy](#)
- [Bullying Prevention Policy](#)
- [Pastoral Code of Conduct](#)
- [Volunteer Code of Conduct Form](#)

[Download or Print Policies & Procedures](#)

BOY SCOUTS

Diocese of Peoria directive to parishes and schools about chartering Scout troops.

[Click Here for 2021/22 Forms](#)

TRAINING

Safe environment training for adult employees and volunteers who have contact with minors is a key element of the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The Diocese of Peoria has recently unveiled a new training program for adults. The new program, available at <https://peoria.cmgconnect.org>, is designed to help adults know what to look for in children that might indicate that they are victims of abuse and what behavior to look for in adults that might indicate abusive behavior with children. The program also covers diocesan safe environment policies, standards of conduct, and how to report suspected abuse or neglect. Completion of the training program is

required for all personnel (employees and volunteers) of the parishes, schools, and agencies of the Diocese of Peoria who have contact with minors.

For more information, contact your local parish/school/institution.

[Click Here for 2022/23 Forms](#)

INCARDINATED PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE OF PEORIA REMOVED FROM MINISTRY DUE TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE OF A MINOR AFTER 2002

[John Anderson](#)

[Walter Bruening](#)

[Edward Bush](#)

[Terry Cassidy](#)

[Robert Creager](#)

[Norman Goodman](#)

[Duane Leclercq](#)

[Thomas Miller](#)

[John Onderko *](#)

[Gordon Pillon](#)

[Jerome Pilon](#)

[Gregory Plunkett](#)

[Richard Slavish](#)

[Michael Van Acker](#)

[William Virtue](#)

INCARDINATED PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE OF PEORIA REMOVED FROM MINISTRY DUE TO ALLEGATION OF ABUSE OF A MINOR BEFORE 2002 OR, DETERMINED TO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF ABUSE OF A MINOR BEFORE 2002

[Robert O. Barnett](#)

Louis Condon

Francis Engels

William Harbert

George Hiland

Robert Hughes

William Iserman

Eugene Kane

Edward Lohan

Ron Roth

John J. Ryan

Laurence Schumacher

Bernard Tomaszewski

**INCARDINATED PRIESTS IN OTHER DIOCESES/RELIGIOUS ORDERS
WHO SERVED IN THE DIOCESE OF PEORIA THAT WERE
REMOVED FROM MINISTRY DUE TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE OF A MINOR**
(Alleged conduct occurred inside the Diocese of Peoria)

Victorian Ostmeyer, OFM

Toussaint Perron, Order of White Fathers

Samuel Pusateri, Order of St. Benedict, Peru, Illinois

Kenneth Roberts, Diocese of Dallas, Texas

John Turnbull, The Franciscan Friars, Province of St. John the Baptist, Cincinnati, Ohio

**INCARDINATED PRIESTS IN OTHER DIOCESES/RELIGIOUS ORDERS
WHO SERVED IN THE DIOCESE OF PEORIA THAT WERE
REMOVED FROM MINISTRY DUE TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE OF A MINOR**
(Alleged conduct occurred outside the Diocese of Peoria)

Michael Baca, Order of Franciscan Friars, Province of St. John the Baptist, Cincinnati, Ohio

Philip Kraus, Jesuit Order, Central and Southern

Severin Lamping, OFM

Joachim Lux, OFM

Frank Martinez, Diocese of Davenport

Orville Munie, Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Thomas Murphy, Christian Brothers of North America

Carter Partee, OFM

Juvenal Pfalzer, OFM

Roman Pfalzer, OFM

* The Diocese of Peoria discovered information concerning sexual misconduct with a minor by Onderko, but no alleged victim has come forward. Onderko denies that he has ever engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor.

While the Diocese of Peoria has endeavored to make a complete and accurate disclosure, the information on this page is subject to change as additional information is received.

**SPALDING PASTORAL CENTER | 419 NE MADISON AVENUE | PEORIA, IL 61603 | PHONE (309) 671-1550 |
FAX (309) 671-1579**

OUR DAILY BREAD

- Mass Times for Travel
- Today's Readings (USCCB)
- Saint of the Day

QUICK LINKS

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- [Ways to Give](#)
- [Safe Environment Program](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)



John Anderson

Assignment History	St. Mary (Aledo) St. Mary (Canton) St. Rose (Rushville) St. Edward (Chillicothe) St. Philomena (Peoria) St. Joseph Home (Peoria) King's House Retreat Center (Henry)
Birth Year	1932
Ordination Year	1959
Year Removed	2002

Walter Bruening

Assignment History	St. Patrick (Urbana) St. Joseph (Pekin) St. Anthony (Atkinson) St. Mary (Hooppole) St. Augustine (St. Augustine) St. Patrick Mission (Raritan) Moderator Monmouth Deanery St. Mary (Henry) St. Joseph (Henry)
Birth Year	1928
Ordination Year	1954
Year Removed	2002
Year Died	2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2002

Contact:
Kate Kenny
Director of Communications
(309) 671-1550

**"CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA REQUESTS PRIESTS
TO NO LONGER FUNCTION IN
PUBLIC MINISTRY"**

PEORIA- Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria has asked certain priests to step-down from public ministry. Recent allegations of sexual misconduct with minors were made against the men dating as far back as the 1960's. Each man has been asked not to function as a Catholic priest in any public capacity, to no longer wear clerical garb or the Roman collar, and to refrain from using the title Reverend or Father.

They are (also included is their most recent assignment):

- Edward Bush, 70, former pastor St. Patrick, Colona
 - John Anderson, 69, former director of cemeteries, director of Propagation of the Faith, director of King's House of Retreats, Henry, chaplain of St. Joseph's Retirement Home, West Peoria
 - Robert Creager, 74, former pastor St. Patrick, Ottawa
 - Walter Bruening, 73, former pastor St. Joseph and St. Mary, Henry
 - Richard Slavish, 68, former pastor St. Anthony, Matherville and St. John, Viola
 - Norman Goodman, 73, former pastor Holy Family, Lincoln
- Gregory Plunkett, 57, pastor of St. Catherine's Parish, Aledo and St. Mary's, Keithsburg has been withdrawn from all priestly ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Peoria following allegations of sexual misconduct.

An initial complaint, dating back prior to his entrance into the seminary, was brought to the diocese in early April 2002. Since that time, the diocese has been conducting an investigation to determine the merits of the claim.

-more-

Despite Plunkett's denial of any wrongdoing, it was determined after additional allegations - again, prior to his entrance into the seminary - were received by diocesan officials that he should no longer function in active ministry.

In the case of Norman Goodman sexual abuse allegations were made against him as recently as the 1990's. Those allegations first came to the diocese's attention in 1997. Subsequently, Goodman was asked to no longer function in public ministry.

The other allegations against the remaining six men are 20 to 40 years old, although the accusations of their misconduct were brought to the diocese in the last eight weeks.

Finally, it should be noted that Jeffrey Windy, former pastor of St. Patrick's, Sheffield, and St. Margaret's, Wyandot, who plead guilty to federal drug charges earlier this month, was removed from all public ministry on the date of his arrest in January of 2002.

####

Edward Bush

Assignment History	St. Thomas (Peoria Heights) Sacred Heart (Moline) St. Patrick (Colona)
Birth Year	1932
Ordination Year	1957
Year Removed	2002
Year Died	2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2002

Contact:
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Director of Communications
(309) 671-1550

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 - Robert Creager, 74, former pastor St. Patrick, Ottawa
 - Walter Bruening, 73, former pastor St. Joseph and St. Mary, Henry
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In the case of Norman Goodman sexual abuse allegations were made against him as recently as the 1990's. Those allegations first came to the diocese's attention in 1997. Subsequently, Goodman was asked to no longer function in public ministry.

The other allegations against the remaining six men are 20 to 40 years old, although the accusations of their misconduct were brought to the diocese in the last eight weeks.

Finally, it should be noted that Jeffrey Windy, former pastor of St. Patrick's, Sheffield, and St. Margaret's, Wyandot, who plead guilty to federal drug charges earlier this month, was removed from all public ministry on the date of his arrest in January of 2002.

####

Terry Cassidy

Assignment History	Christ the King (Moline) St. Catherine (Aledo) St. Mary (Keithsburg) St. Anthony (Matherville) St. Theresa (New Boston) St. John (Viola) St. Andrew (Oquawka) St. Mark (Peoria) St. Edward (Chillicothe) St. Mary (Moline) St. Jude (Peoria) St. Mary (Wenona) St. John the Baptist (Lostat) St. Joseph (Chenoa) St. Mary (Lexington) St. Martin de Porres (Peoria) Spiritual Advisor for TEC Spiritual Advisor for Cursillo Chaplain Knights of Columbus St. Ann (Peoria)
Birth Year	1951
Ordination Year	1984
Year Removed	2015

NEWS RELEASE
The Diocese of Peoria, Illinois
August 26, 2015

Contact:
Patricia M. Gibson, Chancellor
309-671-1550

For Immediate Release

“CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA REQUIRES PRIEST TO NO LONGER FUNCTION IN PUBLIC MINISTRY”

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C. of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria has, upon the unanimous advise of the Diocesan Review Commission, required Father Terry Cassidy, Pastor of St. Ann Church, Peoria, Illinois, to step down from public ministry. Allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor were made against Cassidy dating back nearly thirty years ago. He can no longer function as a Catholic priest in any public capacity, wear clerical garb or the Roman collar, and is to refrain from using the title Reverend or Father.

Cassidy's assignments serving in the Diocese of Peoria include: Christ the King Church, Moline (1984-1987); St. Catherine Church, Aledo, St. Mary Church, Keithsburg, St. Anthony Church, Matherville, St. Theresa Church, New Boston, St. John Church, Viola, St. Andrew Church, Oquawka (1987-1989); St. Mark Church, Peoria (1989-1990); St. Edward Church, Chillicothe (1990-1992); St. Mary Church, Moline (1992); St. Jude Church, Peoria (1992-1994); St. Mary Church, Wenona, St. John the Baptist Church, Lostant (1994-1995); St. Joseph Church, Chenoa, St. Mary Church, Lexington (1995-1999); St. Martin de Porres, Peoria (1999-2001); Spiritual Advisor for TEC (2006 – 2013); Spiritual Advisor for Cursillo (2006 – current); St. Ann Church, Peoria (1999-current).

Under the direction of Bishop Jenky, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria remains committed to maintaining a safe environment for all children. The implementation of the Protecting God's Children program and the current safe environment program used within the Diocese, has made an important impact on the safety of the children in the Catholic faith communities throughout the 26 counties of the diocese.

Bishop Jenky continues to pray daily for all victims of sexual abuse and apologizes and prays that the Lord will heal the wounds resulting from this abuse. Bishop Jenky asks for the prayers of the faithful for all the individuals involved in this case and especially for the overwhelming majority of our priests and lay ministers whose zeal and holiness do so much to build up the body of Christ in Central Illinois.

At this time, out of respect for the privacy of the individuals involved in the case, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria will not be providing any further information.

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Robert Creager

Assignment History	Sacred Heart (Moline) U.S. Armed Forces St. Malachy (Geneseo) St. Mary (Keithsburg) St. Theresa Mission (New Boston) Rock Island Deanery St. Mary (Pesotum) St. John the Baptist (Clinton) St. Patrick (Wapella) St. Patrick (Ottawa)
Birth Year	1928
Ordination Year	1954
Year Removed	2002
Year Died	2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2002

Contact:
Kate Kenny
Director of Communications
(309) 671-1550

**"CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA REQUESTS PRIESTS
TO NO LONGER FUNCTION IN
PUBLIC MINISTRY"**

PEORIA- Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria has asked certain priests to step-down from public ministry. Recent allegations of sexual misconduct with minors were made against the men dating as far back as the 1960's. Each man has been asked not to function as a Catholic priest in any public capacity, to no longer wear clerical garb or the Roman collar, and to refrain from using the title Reverend or Father.

They are (also included is their most recent assignment):

- Edward Bush, 70, former pastor St. Patrick, Colona
 - John Anderson, 69, former director of cemeteries, director of Propagation of the Faith, director of King's House of Retreats, Henry, chaplain of St. Joseph's Retirement Home, West Peoria
 - Robert Creager, 74, former pastor St. Patrick, Ottawa
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An initial complaint, dating back prior to his entrance into the seminary, was brought to the diocese in early April 2002. Since that time, the diocese has been conducting an investigation to determine the merits of the claim.

-more-

Despite Plunkett's denial of any wrongdoing, it was determined after additional allegations - again, prior to his entrance into the seminary - were received by diocesan officials that he should no longer function in active ministry.

In the case of Norman Goodman sexual abuse allegations were made against him as recently as the 1990's. Those allegations first came to the diocese's attention in 1997. Subsequently, Goodman was asked to no longer function in public ministry.

The other allegations against the remaining six men are 20 to 40 years old, although the accusations of their misconduct were brought to the diocese in the last eight weeks.

Finally, it should be noted that Jeffrey Windy, former pastor of St. Patrick's, Sheffield, and St. Margaret's, Wyandot, who plead guilty to federal drug charges earlier this month, was removed from all public ministry on the date of his arrest in January of 2002.

####

Norman Goodman

Assignment History	Sacred Heart (Moline) St. Patrick (Lincoln) St. Mary (Atlanta) Holy Family (Lincoln) St. Mary (Atlanta) St. Columba (Mason City)
Birth Year	1929
Ordination Year	1960
Year Removed	2002
Year Died	2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2002

Contact:
Kate Kenny
Director of Communications
(309) 671-1550

**"CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA REQUESTS PRIESTS
TO NO LONGER FUNCTION IN
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####

Duane Leclercq

Assignment History	Holy Trinity (Bloomington) St. Mark (Peoria) St. Mary (Moline) St. Vincent de Paul (Peoria) Sacre Coeur (Creve Coeur) St. Edward (Chillicothe) Director of TEC St. Bernard (Peoria) (Residence) St. John (Clinton) St. Patrick (Wapella) St. Theresa (Earlville) St. Boniface (Peoria) St. Patrick (Dwight) St. Patrick (LaSalle) Sacred Heart (Granville) St. Patrick (Henepin)
Birth Year	1938
Ordination Year	1964
Year Removed	2018

NEWS RELEASE

The Diocese of Peoria, Illinois
November 1, 2018

For Immediate Release

**“Catholic Diocese of Peoria Removes
Three Retired Priests from Public Ministry”**

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C., of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, upon the unanimous advice of the Diocesan Review Commission, has required these three retired priests to step down from public ministry due to each having credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor:

Fr. George Hiland
Fr. Duane Leclercq
Fr. John Onderko

Hiland is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor approximately fifty year ago.

Leclercq has been alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor approximately thirty years ago.

Onderko has been alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor approximately fifty-five years ago.

Effective immediately, Hiland, Leclercq and Onderko can no longer function as Catholic priests in any public capacity, wear clerical garb or the Roman collar, and are to refrain from using the title Reverend or Father.

It is the policy of the Diocese to report all allegations of child sexual abuse to the proper State’s Attorney. Accordingly, these allegations have been reported to the proper State’s Attorneys.

George Hiland’s assignments while serving in the Diocese of Peoria included: St. Stephen, Streator (1958-1971), St. Patrick, Arlington (1971-1976), St. John the Baptist, Fairbury and St. James, Forrest (1976-1992), St. Patrick, Dwight (1992-1994), Senior Status (1994).

Duane Leclercq’s assignments while serving in the Diocese of Peoria included: Holy Trinity, Bloomington (1964-1968), St. Mark, Peoria (1968-1971), St. Mary, Moline (1971-1973), St. Vincent de Paul, Peoria (1973-1976), Sacre Coeur, Creve Coeur (1976-1979), St. Edward, Chillicothe (1979-1982), Director of Teens Encounter Christ, with residence at St. Bernard, Peoria (1982-1983), St. John, Clinton, and St. Patrick, Wapella (1983-1989), St. Theresa, Earlville (1989-1991), St. Boniface, Peoria (1991-1994), St.

Patrick, Dwight (1994), St. Patrick, LaSalle (1994-2003), Sacred Heart, Granville and St. Patrick, Hennepin (2003-2008), Senior Status (2008).

John Onderko's assignments while serving in the Diocese of Peoria included: St. Hyacinth, LaSalle (1962), Sacre Coeur, Creve Coeur (1962-1965), St. Hyacinth (1965-1980), Holy Cross, Mendota and Sts. Peter and Paul, Peterstown (1980-1981), St. Mary, Moline (1981-1993), Resurrection, LaSalle (1993-2005), Senior Status (2005).

Under the direction of Bishop Jenky, the Diocese of Peoria remains committed to maintaining a safe environment for all children. The implementation of the current safe environment program used within the Diocese has made an important impact on the safety of the children in the Catholic faith communities throughout the 26 counties of the diocese.

Bishop Jenky continues to pray daily for all victims of sexual abuse and apologizes and prays that the Lord will heal the wounds resulting from this abuse

###

Thomas Miller

Assignment History	Holy Trinity (Bloomington) Schlarman High School (Danville) St. Paul (Danville) St. Bernard (Peoria) St. Vincent de Paul (Peoria)
Birth Year	1951
Ordination Year	1979
Year Removed	2004

NEWS RELEASE
The Catholic Diocese of Peoria
309-671-1550
July 30, 2010

***“DISMISSAL FROM CLERICAL STATE CONFIRMED IN THE CASE OF
THOMAS MILLER”***

For Immediate Release

PEORIA- The Diocese of Peoria has been informed that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has rejected the appeal of Thomas Miller in regard to his dismissal from the clerical state. Thomas Miller was dismissed from the clerical state October 2006, but appealed this decision. Recently, the Diocese of Peoria was informed that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has upheld the initial decision and that he is now permanently dismissed from the clerical state. The Congregation also indicated that no further appeal is possible. The Congregation duly considered all evidence presented by both parties in this matter and affirmed his permanent dismissal.

Thomas Miller has served at Holy Trinity Parish, Bloomington, Schlarman High School, Danville, and St. Bernard Parish and St. Vincent de Paul Parish, both located in Peoria. Bishop Daniel Jenky has asked for the prayers of the faithful for all the individuals involved in this case and especially for the overwhelming majority of our priests, religious and laity throughout the Diocese whose zeal and holiness do so much to build up the body of Christ in central Illinois.

No further comment will be issued regarding this matter.

###

John Onderko

Assignment History	St. Hyacinth (LaSalle) Sacre Coeur (Creve Coeur) St. Hyacinth (LaSalle) Holy Cross (Mendota) Sts. Peter & Paul (Peterstown) Holy Cross (Mendota) St. Mary (Moline) Resurrection (LaSalle)
Birth Year	1936
Ordination Year	1962
Year Removed	2018

NEWS RELEASE

The Diocese of Peoria, Illinois
November 1, 2018

For Immediate Release

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Three Retired Priests from Public Ministry”**

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Fr. George Hiland
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Leclercq has been alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor approximately thirty years ago.

Onderko has been alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor approximately fifty-five years ago.

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It is the policy of the Diocese to report all allegations of child sexual abuse to the proper State’s Attorney. Accordingly, these allegations have been reported to the proper State’s Attorneys.

George Hiland’s assignments while serving in the Diocese of Peoria included: St. Stephen, Streator (1958-1971), St. Patrick, Arlington (1971-1976), St. John the Baptist, Fairbury and St. James, Forrest (1976-1992), St. Patrick, Dwight (1992-1994), Senior Status (1994).

Duane Leclercq’s assignments while serving in the Diocese of Peoria included: Holy Trinity, Bloomington (1964-1968), St. Mark, Peoria (1968-1971), St. Mary, Moline (1971-1973), St. Vincent de Paul, Peoria (1973-1976), Sacre Coeur, Creve Coeur (1976-1979), St. Edward, Chillicothe (1979-1982), Director of Teens Encounter Christ, with residence at St. Bernard, Peoria (1982-1983), St. John, Clinton, and St. Patrick, Wapella (1983-1989), St. Theresa, Earlville (1989-1991), St. Boniface, Peoria (1991-1994), St.

Patrick, Dwight (1994), St. Patrick, LaSalle (1994-2003), Sacred Heart, Granville and St. Patrick, Hennepin (2003-2008), Senior Status (2008).

John Onderko's assignments while serving in the Diocese of Peoria included: St. Hyacinth, LaSalle (1962), Sacre Coeur, Creve Coeur (1962-1965), St. Hyacinth (1965-1980), Holy Cross, Mendota and Sts. Peter and Paul, Peterstown (1980-1981), St. Mary, Moline (1981-1993), Resurrection, LaSalle (1993-2005), Senior Status (2005).

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###

Gordon Pillon

Assignment History	Bradley Newman Center (Peoria) St. Edward (Chillicothe) St. John Chapel (Champaign) St. John (Clinton) St. Patrick (Wapella) Sacred Heart (Farmer City) St. John (Bellflower) St. Patrick (LaSalle) St. Hyacinth (LaSalle) Holy Rosary (LaSalle) Resurrection (LaSalle)
Birth Year	1953
Ordination Year, Diocese of Orange	1979
Incardination Year, Diocese of Peoria	1993
Year Removed	2006
Year Died	2012

NEWS RELEASE

Catholic Diocese of Peoria
May 24, 2006

Contact Persons:
Elizabeth R. Smarjesse
309-453-8184

**“CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA REQUESTS PRIEST TO NO LONGER
FUNCTION IN PUBLIC MINISTRY”**

For Immediate Release

Peoria, Illinois- Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C., of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria has asked Father Gordon Pillon, last serving as pastor of St. Patrick Church, St. Hyacinth Church, Holy Rosary Church, and Resurrection Church, all located in LaSalle, Illinois, to step down from public ministry. Recent allegations of sexual misconduct of a minor were made against Pillon dating back nearly 25 years ago. During the time of the abuse mentioned in the allegations, Pillon was a priest incardinated in the Diocese of Orange, California. He has been asked not to function as a Catholic priest in any public capacity, to no longer wear clerical garb or the Roman collar, and to refrain from using the title Reverend or Father. In accord with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, prior to making the decision to remove Father Pillon from public ministry, Bishop Jenky consulted with and sought the advice of the Sexual Review Commission who were made aware of the allegations and advised the Bishop as to their opinion of the creditability of the allegations. The current Review Commission is made up of clergy, physicians, educators, psychologists, a victim, attorneys, and civil officials.

The Diocese of Peoria was not aware of any allegations at the time of his incardination into the Diocese of Peoria in 1993. Pillon assignments in the Diocese of Peoria include campus ministry at Bradley University, Peoria (1990-1992), St. Edward Church, Chillicothe (1992-1996), St. John's Chapel, Champaign (1999-2000), St. John Church, Clinton (2000-2003), St. Patrick Church, Wapella (2000-2003), Sacred Heart Church, Farmer City (2003), St. John Church, Bellflower (2003), St. Patrick Church, LaSalle (2003-2006), St. Hyacinth Church, LaSalle (2003-2006), Holy Rosary Church (2003-2006), Resurrection Church (2005-2006).

Under the direction of Bishop Jenky, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria remains committed to maintaining a safe environment for all children. The implementation of the Protecting God's Children program related to Virtus programs has made an impact on the safety of the children in the Catholic faith communities throughout the 26 counties of the Diocese.

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Bishop Jenky continues to pray for all victims of sexual abuse. He sends his heartfelt apologies to all those affected and prays that our Lord will heal the wounds resulting from this abuse. Bishop Jenky also asks for the prayers of the faithful for all the individuals involved in this case and especially for the overwhelming majority of our priests and lay ministers whose zeal and holiness do so much to build up the body of Christ in Central Illinois.

At this time, out of respect for the privacy for the victims involved in the cases, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria will not be providing any further information.

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Jerome Pilon

Assignment History	Holy Family (Lincoln) St. Mary (Atlanta) St. Columba (Mason City) Lincoln Correctional Center (Lincoln) Holy Cross (Mendota) Sts. Peter & Paul (Peterstown) St. Anthony (Hoopeston) St. Mary (Moline)
Birth Year	1962
Ordination Year	1989
Year Removed	2009

NEWS RELEASE
The Diocese of Peoria, Illinois
January 22, 2009

Contact:
Office of the Chancery
309-671-1550

For Immediate Release

“CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA REQUESTS PRIEST TO NO LONGER FUNCTION IN PUBLIC MINISTRY”

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C. of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria has asked Father Jerry Pilon, Pastor of St. Mary Church, Moline, Illinois, to step down from public ministry. Allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor were made against Pilon dating back to nearly twelve years ago. The alleged abuse did not take place in the Diocese of Peoria, and the victim was not a minor with whom he had served in any ministerial capacity. He has been asked not to function as a Catholic priest in any public capacity, to no longer wear clerical garb or the roman collar, and to refrain from using the title Reverend or Father. Pilon has denied the allegations and has claimed that he is innocent.

Pilon's assignments serving in the Diocese of Peoria include: Holy Family Church, Lincoln, St. Mary Church, Atlanta, and St. Columba Church, Mason City (1989-1991), Chaplain, Lincoln Correctional Center (1989), Holy Cross Church, Mendota, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Peterstown (1991-1992), St. Anthony Church, Hoopston (1992-1998), St. Mary Church, Moline (1998-current).

Under the direction of Bishop Jenky, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria remains committed to maintaining a safe environment for all children. The implementation of the Protecting God's Children program related to VIRTUS programs and the current safe environment program used within the Diocese, has made an important impact on the safety of the children in the Catholic faith communities throughout the 26 counties of the diocese.

Bishop Jenky continues to pray daily for all victims of sexual abuse and apologizes and prays that the Lord will heal the wounds resulting from this abuse. Bishop Jenky asks for the prayers of the faithful for all the individuals involved in this case and especially for the overwhelming majority of our priests and lay ministers whose zeal and holiness do so much to build up the body of Christ in Central Illinois.

At this time, out of respect for the privacy of the individuals involved in the case, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria will not be providing any further information.

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Gregory Plunkett

Assignment History	St. Columba (Ottawa) Immaculate Conception (Carthage) St. Mary (West Point) St. Catherine (Aledo) St. Mary (Keithsburg) St. Therese (New Boston)
Birth Year	1945
Ordination Year	1988
Year Removed	2002
Year Died	2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2002

Contact:
Kate Kenny
Director of Communications
(309) 671-1550

"CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA REQUESTS PRIESTS TO NO LONGER FUNCTION IN PUBLIC MINISTRY"

PEORIA- Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria has asked certain priests to step-down from public ministry. Recent allegations of sexual misconduct with minors were made against the men dating as far back as the 1960's. Each man has been asked not to function as a Catholic priest in any public capacity, to no longer wear clerical garb or the Roman collar, and to refrain from using the title Reverend or Father.

They are (also included is their most recent assignment):

- Edward Bush, 70, former pastor St. Patrick, Colona
 - John Anderson, 69, former director of cemeteries, director of Propagation of the Faith, director of King's House of Retreats, Henry, chaplain of St. Joseph's Retirement Home, West Peoria
 - Robert Creager, 74, former pastor St. Patrick, Ottawa
 - Walter Bruening, 73, former pastor St. Joseph and St. Mary, Henry
 - Richard Slavish, 68, former pastor St. Anthony, Matherville and St. John, Viola
 - Norman Goodman, 73, former pastor Holy Family, Lincoln
- Gregory Plunkett, 57, pastor of St. Catherine's Parish, Aledo and St. Mary's, Keithsburg has been withdrawn from all priestly ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Peoria following allegations of sexual misconduct.

An initial complaint, dating back prior to his entrance into the seminary, was brought to the diocese in early April 2002. Since that time, the diocese has been conducting an investigation to determine the merits of the claim.

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Despite Plunkett's denial of any wrongdoing, it was determined after additional allegations - again, prior to his entrance into the seminary - were received by diocesan officials that he should no longer function in active ministry.

In the case of Norman Goodman sexual abuse allegations were made against him as recently as the 1990's. Those allegations first came to the diocese's attention in 1997. Subsequently, Goodman was asked to no longer function in public ministry.

The other allegations against the remaining six men are 20 to 40 years old, although the accusations of their misconduct were brought to the diocese in the last eight weeks.

Finally, it should be noted that Jeffrey Windy, former pastor of St. Patrick's, Sheffield, and St. Margaret's, Wyandot, who plead guilty to federal drug charges earlier this month, was removed from all public ministry on the date of his arrest in January of 2002.

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Richard Slavish

Assignment History	Immaculate Heart of Mary (Galesburg) Sacred Heart (Moline) East Moline State Hospital St. Mary Cathedral (Peoria) St. Theresa (Alexis) St. Aloysius (Wataga) Sts. Peter & Paul (Nauvoo) Sacred Heart (Dallas City) St. Francis (Kewanee) St. John (Cambridge) St. Anthony (Matherville) St. John (Viola)
Birth Year	1933
Ordination Year	1959
Year Removed	2002
Year Died	2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2002

Contact:
Kate Kenny
Director of Communications
(309) 671-1550

"CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA REQUESTS PRIESTS TO NO LONGER FUNCTION IN PUBLIC MINISTRY"

PEORIA- Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria has asked certain priests to step-down from public ministry. Recent allegations of sexual misconduct with minors were made against the men dating as far back as the 1960's. Each man has been asked not to function as a Catholic priest in any public capacity, to no longer wear clerical garb or the Roman collar, and to refrain from using the title Reverend or Father.

They are (also included is their most recent assignment):

- Edward Bush, 70, former pastor St. Patrick, Colona
 - John Anderson, 69, former director of cemeteries, director of Propagation of the Faith, director of King's House of Retreats, Henry, chaplain of St. Joseph's Retirement Home, West Peoria
 - Robert Creager, 74, former pastor St. Patrick, Ottawa
 - Walter Bruening, 73, former pastor St. Joseph and St. Mary, Henry
 - Richard Slavish, 68, former pastor St. Anthony, Matherville and St. John, Viola
 - Norman Goodman, 73, former pastor Holy Family, Lincoln
- Gregory Plunkett, 57, pastor of St. Catherine's Parish, Aledo and St. Mary's, Keithsburg has been withdrawn from all priestly ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Peoria following allegations of sexual misconduct.

An initial complaint, dating back prior to his entrance into the seminary, was brought to the diocese in early April 2002. Since that time, the diocese has been conducting an investigation to determine the merits of the claim.

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Despite Plunkett's denial of any wrongdoing, it was determined after additional allegations - again, prior to his entrance into the seminary - were received by diocesan officials that he should no longer function in active ministry.

In the case of Norman Goodman sexual abuse allegations were made against him as recently as the 1990's. Those allegations first came to the diocese's attention in 1997. Subsequently, Goodman was asked to no longer function in public ministry.

The other allegations against the remaining six men are 20 to 40 years old, although the accusations of their misconduct were brought to the diocese in the last eight weeks.

Finally, it should be noted that Jeffrey Windy, former pastor of St. Patrick's, Sheffield, and St. Margaret's, Wyandot, who plead guilty to federal drug charges earlier this month, was removed from all public ministry on the date of his arrest in January of 2002.

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Michael Van Acker

Assignment History	Holy Trinity (Bloomington) Central Catholic High School (Bloomington) St. Patrick (Wapella) Bergan High School (Peoria) St. Patrick (Andalusia) OSF St. Mary Medical Center (Galesburg)
Birth Year	1952
Ordination Year	1981
Year Removed	2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2002

Contact:
Kate Kenny
Director of Communications
(309) 671-1550

"CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA REQUESTS GALESBURG PRIEST TO NO LONGER FUNCTION IN PUBLIC MINISTRY"

PEORIA- Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria has asked Michael R. Van Acker, 50, chaplain OSF St. Mary Medical Center, Galesburg, to step-down from public ministry. Allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor were recently brought to the diocese's attention. The misconduct occurred in the early 1980's. Van Acker has been asked not to function as a Catholic priest in any public capacity, to no longer wear clerical garb or the Roman collar, and to refrain from using the title Reverend or Father.

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William Virtue

Assignment History	Sacred Heart (Campus) St. Mary (Loretto) Sacre Coeur (Creve Coeur) St. Joseph Home (Lacon) Sacred Heart (Granville) St. Theresa (Cedar Point) Sacred Heart (Campus) St. Mary (Loretto) St. Theresa (Earlville) Mount St. Mary Seminary (Maryland) Sacred Heart (Farmer City) St. John (Belleflower) St. Theresa (Earlville)
Birth Year	1948
Ordination Year, Diocese of Joliet	1975
Incardination Year, Diocese of Peoria	1988
Year Removed	2006

NEWS RELEASE
Catholic Diocese of Peoria
February 23, 2006
Contact Persons:
Elizabeth R. Smarjese
309-453-8184

"CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA REQUESTS PRIEST TO NO LONGER FUNCTION IN PUBLIC MINISTRY"

For Immediate Release

PEORIA- Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C. of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria has asked Father William Virtue, Administrator at St. Theresa in Earlville, to step-down from public ministry. Recent allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor were made against Virtue dating back to nearly twenty-five years ago. During the time of the abuse mentioned in the allegation, Virtue was a priest in the Diocese of Joliet. He has been asked not to function as a Catholic priest in any public capacity, to no longer wear clerical garb or the Roman collar, and to refrain from using the title Reverend or Father. Virtue has denied the allegations and has claimed that he is innocent, but has agreed to cooperate with the Bishop.

The Diocese of Peoria was not aware of any allegations at the time of his incardination into the Diocese of Peoria, April 18, 1988.

Virtue's assignments serving in the Diocese of Peoria include: Sacred Heart, Campus and St. Mary, Loretto (1986-1988), Sabbatical for studies (1988), St. Mary, Odell, Sacred Heart, Campus (1989), Sacre Coeur, Creve Coeur (1990-1991), St. Joseph's Home, Lacon (1991), Sacred Heart, Granville and St. Theresa, Cedar Point (1992), Sacred Heart, Campus and St. Mary, Loretto (1993-1996), St. Theresa, Earlville (1996-1999), Mount St. Mary's Seminary (1999-2001), Sacred Heart, Farmer City, St. John, Bellflower (2001-2003) Leave of Absence 2003 and Administrator St. Theresa, Earlville (2005).

Under the direction of Bishop Jenky the Catholic Diocese of Peoria remains committed to maintaining a safe environment for all children. The implementation of the Protecting God's Children program related to Virtus programs has made an important impact on the safety of the children in the Catholic faith communities throughout the 26 counties of the diocese.

Bishop Jenky said, "I continue to pray daily for all victims of sexual abuse. I send my heartfelt apologies to all those affected and pray that our Lord will heal the wounds resulting from this abuse. I also ask for the prayers of the faithful for all the individuals involved in this case and especially for the overwhelming majority of our priests and lay ministers whose zeal and holiness do so much to build up the body of Christ in Central Illinois."

At this time, out of respect for the privacy of the individuals involved in the cases, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria will not be providing any further information.

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Robert O. Barnett

Assignment History	St. Patrick (Peoria) St. Mary (Moline) St. Patrick (Lincoln) St. Mary (Delavan) St. Mary (East Moline) St. Francis of Assisi (Ottawa) Huber Memorial Home (Rock Island)
Birth Year	1906
Ordination Year	1933
Year Died	1991

Louis Condon

Assignment History	St. Mary (Moline) St. Mary (Pesotum) St. Louis (Princeton) Sacred Heart (Rock Island) St. Mary (Lincoln) St. Rose (Rushville) Immaculate Conception (Delavan) St. Joseph Mission (Hopedale) St. Joseph (Kewanee) St. Mary (DePue)
Birth Year	1922
Ordination Year	1948
Year Removed	1986
Year Died	2009

Francis Engels

Assignment History	St. John Chapel (Champaign) St. Mary (Champaign) St. Mary Hospital (Galesburg) St. Joseph (Pekin) St. Columba (Ottawa) St. Mary (Moline) St. Joseph (Chenoa) St. Mary Mission (Lexington) St. John (Woodhull) St. John Vianney Mission (Cambridge) Sacred Heart (Annawan) St. Mary Mission (Hooppole) St. Anthony (Atkinson)
Birth Year	1936
Ordination Year	1962
Year Removed	1993

William Harbert

Assignment History	Holy Trinity (Bloomington) St. Joseph (Pekin) St. Thomas (Peoria Heights) St. Joseph (Rock Island) St. Rose (Rushville) Christ the King (Moline) Immaculate Conception (Monmouth) St. Mary (Keithsburg) St. Theresa (New Boston) St. Andrew (Oquawka) St. John (Walnut) Immaculate Conception (Ohio) St. Joseph Home (Lacon)
Birth Year	1932
Ordination Year	1962
Year Removed	1993
Year Died	2003

George Hiland

Assignment History	St. Stephen (Streator) St. Patrick (Arlington) Sacred Heart Mission (Dimmick) St. Thomas (Dalzell) St. John (Fairbury) St. James Mission (Forrest) St. Patrick (Dwight)
Birth Year	1928
Ordination Year	1958
Year Removed	1993

Robert Hughes

Assignment History	Holy Trinity (Bloomington) Catholic Youth Center (Peoria) St. Robert Bellarmine (Normal) Catholic Student Center (Normal) St. Patrick (Washington)
Birth Year	1923
Ordination Year	1954
Year Died	2016

William Isermann

Assignment History	St. Patrick (Washington) St. Patrick (Ransom) St. Patrick (Ottawa) St. Anthony (Hoopeston) Holy Trinity (Moline) St. Mary (DePue) Saints Peter & Paul (Leonore) Immaculate Conception (Streator) St. Joseph (Peoria) St. John (Cullom) St. Patrick (Dwight) Dwight Correctional Center (Dwight)
Birth Year	1923
Ordination Year	1956
Year Removed	1993
Year Died	1996

Eugene Kane

Assignment History	St. Patrick (Ottawa) St. Patrick (Peoria) Bergan High School (Peoria) St. Patrick (Elkhart) St. Thomas Aquinas (Mt. Pulaski) Cathedral of St. Mary (Peoria) St. Pius X (Rock Island) St. Mary (El Paso)
Birth Year	1927
Ordination Year	1954
Year Died	2009

Edward Lohan

Assignment History	Holy Trinity (Bloomington) St. Patrick (Danville) Schlarman High School (Danville) Elizabeth's Hospital (Danville) Corpus Christi High School (Galesburg) St. Mary Hospital (Galesburg) St. Thomas More (Galesburg) Galesburg State Research Hospital (Galesburg) Immaculate Heart of Mary (Galesburg) St. Philomena (Peoria)
Birth Year	1914
Ordination Year	1941
Year Died	1993

Ronald Roth

Assignment History	Holy Family (Olgesby) St. John (Peoria) Archdiocese of Santa Fe Sts. Peter & Paul (Chatsworth) Guardian Angel Home (Peoria) Sacre Coeur (Creve Coeur) St. Thomas (Peoria Heights) St. Philomena (Peoria) Director House of Prayer (Urbana) Director of Charismatic Renewal St. Patrick (Ransom) St. John (Lostante) Director Apostolate of Prayer / Healing
Birth Year	1937
Ordination Year	1966
Year Removed	1993
Year Died	2009

John J. Ryan

Assignment History	St. Patrick (Ottawa) Holy Trinity (Bloomington) St. John (Clinton) Loyola University (Chicago) Concordia University (Montreal, Quebec)
Birth Year	1925
Ordination Year	1951
Year Died	2000

Laurence C. Schumacher

Assignment History	Immaculate Conception (Streator) St. Patrick (Danville) Sts. Peter & Paul (Peterstown) St. Mary (Henry) St. Theresa (Earlville) St. Bernard (Bushnell) St. Joseph Nursing Home (Lacon)
Birth Year	1902
Ordination Year	1930
Year Died	1980

Bernard Tomaszewski

Assignment History	St. Patrick (Danville) St. Boniface (Seymour) St. Hyacinth (LaSalle) St. Patrick (Tolono) St. Valentine (Peru) Military Archdiocese Immaculate Conception (Monmouth) St. Elizabeth (Thomasboro)
Birth Year	1899
Ordination Year	1924
Year Removed	1946
Year Died	Unknown
