

Clergy Status Report

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Diocese of Toledo Clergy Status Report

Clerics on Administrative Leave

The following are clerics (deacons, priests, bishops) of the Diocese of Toledo who have been placed on administrative leave due to an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor or who have been accused of a crime associated with child pornography. Administrative leave is a term used for the temporary removal of a cleric from his assignment during an investigative procedure, prior to any determination of guilt or innocence. Clergy on administrative leave may not publicly perform any functions connected with Sacred Ordination or present themselves publicly as clerics. A list of their assignments can be found by clicking on their name below.

Name	Status
Zacharias, Michael J.	Placed on administrative leave (2020). Criminal trial concluded with conviction (2023). Case being presented to Holy See.

CLERICS WITH SUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR OR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Clergy who have been Permanently Removed from Public Ministry

The following are clerics (deacons, priests, bishops) of the Diocese of Toledo against whom an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor was substantiated, or who have been convicted of a crime associated with child pornography, and have been permanently removed from public ministry by a canonical process. While each individual remains a cleric, he is required to live a life of prayer and penance. These clergy are subject to supervision for the remainder of their life as a cleric of the Diocese. They may not publicly perform any function connected to Sacred Ordination or present themselves publicly as clerics. A list of their assignments can be found by clicking on their name below.

Name	Status
Beaver, Nelson G.	Placed on administrative leave (2018). Permanently removed from public ministry (2022)
Beauregard, Thomas J. †2005	Placed on administrative leave (2002). Died (2005) while his case was pending with the Holy See.
Fisher, Robert	Placed on administrative leave (2002). Permanently removed from public ministry (2005).
Lucas, C. Neil †2007	Placed on administrative leave (2002). Permanently removed from public ministry (2006). Died (2007).
McCullen, John L. †2013	Place on administrative leave and faculties suspended (2003). Removed from public ministry (2004) by the Archdiocese of Miami. Died (2013)
Rogers, Stephen G	Placed on administrative leave (2002). Permanently removed from public ministry (2006).
Schmelzer, Joseph	Placed on administrative leave (2003). Permanently removed from public ministry (2007).
Shiffler, John	Placed on administrative leave (2002). Permanently removed from public ministry (2006).
Thomas, Robert †2018	Placed on administrative leave (2002). Permanently removed from public ministry (2007). Died (2018).
Varney, Lawrence	Placed on administrative leave (2008). Permanently removed from public ministry (2009).
Welch, Leo †2016	Requested and granted leave of absence (1965). Preliminary canonical investigation begun (2015). Died (2016).
Yeager, Robert	Retired/Senior Status (2005). Permanently removed from public ministry (2006).

† indicates year of death

Clergy who have been Permanently Dismissed from the Clerical State

The following are clerics (deacons, priests, bishops) of the Diocese of Toledo against whom an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor was substantiated or who have been convicted of a crime associated with child pornography and, as a result of a canonical process, have had imposed upon them the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state. The penalty of dismissal (laicization) means that the one ordained loses the juridic status of a cleric. He is barred from performing any function connected with Sacred Ordination or presenting himself as a cleric. A list of their assignments can be found by clicking on their name below.

Name	Status
Kokocinski, Bernard	Personal leave of absence (1988-1991). Placed on administrative leave (2002). Dismissed from the clerical state (2007).
Meiring, Thomas E. †2022	Requested and granted a leave of absence (1983). Dismissed from the clerical state (2016). Died (2022)
Scharf, Lawrence	Placed on administrative leave in (2002). Dismissed from the clerical state (2008).
Shrimplin, Glen †2017	Abandoned ministry (1987). Dismissed from the clerical state (2007). Died (2017).

† indicates year of death

Extern Clergy

An “extern cleric” is any cleric who is not incardinated in the Diocese of Toledo. This would include, but is not limited to, members of religious institutes, societies of apostolic life, and clerics who are incardinated in another diocese. The following are extern clerics (deacons, priests, bishops) against whom an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor was substantiated, or who have been convicted of a crime associated with child pornography, while serving in the Diocese. This would include a canonical assignment to a parish, school, or other ministry sponsored by the Diocese of Toledo.

This category would not necessarily include clerics who resided/were present for a time in the territory of the Diocese of Toledo but were serving in a ministry or apostolate sponsored by their community or who were not immediately subject to the supervision or jurisdiction of the Bishop of Toledo. **For further information on these clerics, one should consult their religious order/community or the diocese where the cleric is/was incardinated.** A list of their assignments or service in the Diocese can be found by clicking on their name below.

Name	Status
Gallen, SJ, John †2011	Prohibited from public ministry by the Society of Jesus (2004). Died (2011).
Knapp, CSSR, Paul	Granted leave of absence by his religious order (1993). Abandoned the priesthood (1995). Dismissed from the clerical state at the request of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (2006).
Punnoor, Samuel	Placed on administrative leave (2015). Remanded to diocese of incardination with full disclosure to the Bishop of Pathanamthitta (2015). Abandoned ministry (2016).
Warren, OSFS, Chester †2021	Placed on administrative leave (1992). Dismissed from clerical state at the request of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales (2007). Died (2021)

† indicates year of death

Clergy who have Abandoned Ministry or have been Voluntarily Dispensed from the Clerical State

The following are clerics (deacons, priests, bishops) of the Diocese of Toledo against whom an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor was substantiated or who have been convicted of a crime associated with child pornography. In these cases, the cleric had abandoned ministry before the allegation was reported to the Diocese and/or voluntarily requested to be dispensed from the clerical state. A list of their assignments can be found by clicking on their name below.

Name	Status
Gray, Dennis L. †2019	Requested and granted leave of absence (1987). Voluntarily dispensed from the clerical state (1994).
Hemstreet, John †2007	Requested and granted leave of absence (1987). Abandoned ministry (1987). Died (2007).
McLaughlin, Michael	Requested and granted leave of absence (1990). Abandoned ministry (1991). Dismissed from the clerical state (2022)
Richey, Herbert †2020	Placed on administrative leave (1992). Voluntarily dispensed from the clerical state (1997). Died (2020).
Tynan, J. Michael	Placed on administrative leave (2004). Voluntarily dispensed from the clerical state (2006).

† indicates year of death

Clergy who were Deceased Prior to an Allegation

Some allegations of sexual abuse of a minor were first reported after a cleric's death. Because these clerics were deceased, and posed no threat, no canonical process took place and thus these cases were not submitted to the Review Board (which was established in 2004). Beginning in 2019, these cases were presented to the Review Board for a recommendation, based on the available evidence, as to whether these clerics' names should be added to the Clergy Status Report. Likewise, going forward, any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor reported after a cleric's death will be submitted to the Review Board to be examined to the fullest extent possible. If it is determined that the allegation can be substantiated, the cleric's name will be added to the Clergy Status Report.

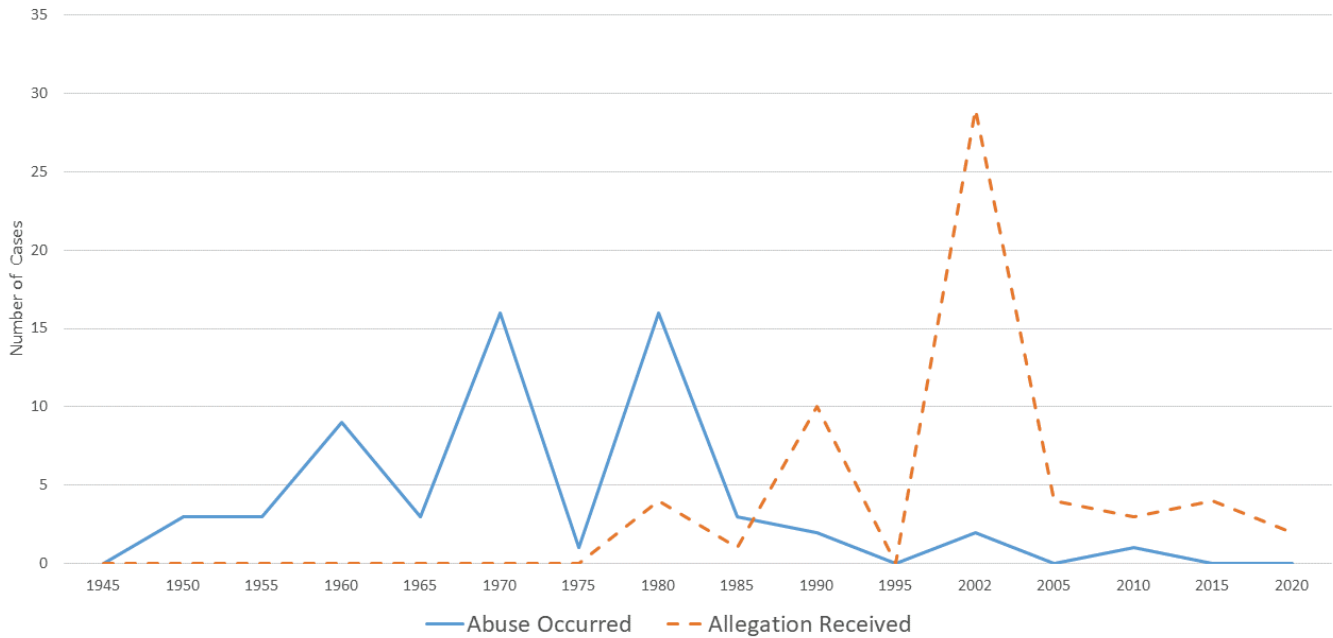
The following are deceased clerics (deacons, priests, bishops) of the Diocese of Toledo against whom an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor was substantiated. A list of their assignments or service in the Diocese can be found by clicking on their name below.

Name	Status
Burger, Karl L. †1991	Substantiated by Review Board (2019). Died (1991).
Fate, Albert A. †1963	Substantiated by Review Board (2019). Died (1963).
Garand, Frederick A. †1982	Substantiated by Review Board (2019). Died (1982).
Liston, Richard S. †1994	Substantiated by Review Board (2019). Died (1994).
Miller, Richard G. †2009	Substantiated by Review Board (2023). Died (2009).
Nieset, Frank E. †2015	Substantiated by Review Board (2023). Died (2015).
Pinter, Alexander †1978	Substantiated by Review Board (2019). Died (1978).
Romo, Bernabe †2019	Substantiated by Review Board (2023). Died (2019).
Schmit, George A. †1984	Substantiated by Review Board (2020). Died (1984).
Wojciechowski, Stanislaus	Substantiated by Review Board (2020). Died (1979).

†1979

† indicates year of death

Substantiated Allegations of Clergy Sexual Abuse of a Minor Diocese of Toledo



The graph above indicates the year substantiated abuse occurred (blue line), and the year the substantiated allegation of abuse was reported to the Diocese of Toledo (dotted orange line).

Diocese of Toledo -[Questions and Answers Regarding the Clergy Sexual Abuse Scandal](#) (updated 9/2020)

Updated: 2/2023

Child Protection

Background Checks

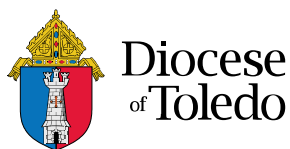
Clergy Status Report

Reporting Abuse

Virtus Registration & Log-In

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Office of Child and Youth Protection and Victim Assistance



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Our Bishop and Diocese
Child and Youth Protection
Ministries/Departments

Careers/Employment
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