



Accused priests: Who they are, where they've served, what's alleged

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For the past decade, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis has maintained that 33 clergy members "credibly accused" of sexually abusing minors have worked in its churches, schools and hospitals since 1950. Its list grew to 43 this week.

An MPR News investigation found allegations of child sexual abuse and other sexual improprieties against 70 clergy members in secret lists, internal church files, court records, private settlements, and police reports. Some have not previously been named by the archdiocese, but have been identified by other Catholic institutions across Minnesota.

Details of the allegations against those priests, deacons and monks are included in this database, along with the locations of their service and their current status, whenever possible. [Related story]



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Rev. John McGrath x

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Where they've served

Rev. John McGrath

Died in 1995 at age 63.

Born
Apr 13, 1931

Ordained
Feb 17, 1957

Died
Mar 15, 1995

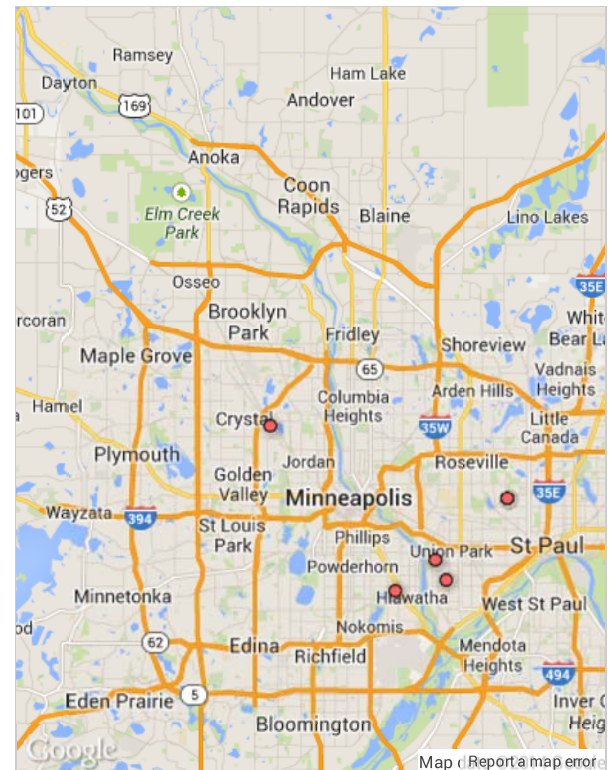


The Catholic Bulletin

Archbishop John Nienstedt named the Rev. John McGrath in December as among a group of "priests with credible claims against them of sexual abuse of a minor."

A woman reported to the archdiocese in the late 1980s that McGrath sexually abused her as a child at Nativity in St. Paul in about 1962 or 1963, according to an internal document from 1988 signed by McGrath, then-Vicar General Michael O'Connell and then-Chancellor Kevin McDonough. The woman recounted how McGrath chased her around Nativity School and caught up with her on the stage of the auditorium.

"He was getting too passionate saying 'kiss me, kiss me' and it scared me," the



woman told the archdiocese, according to the 1988 document. "I slapped him and turned the knife a little by saying, 'What would your mother say if she saw you now?'"

Another time, she said, McGrath unhooked her bra and touched her breasts.

McGrath denied the allegations during a Dec. 15, 1988, meeting with McDonough and O'Connell.

"He said that he never unhooked her bra, and noted that, in fact, he was probably not aware that she was wearing a bra, since he was not aware that grade school girls wore bras at that time," McDonough wrote in a Dec. 21, 1988, record of the meeting. "He noted that the office doors at Nativity parish had glass windows in them. He said that it would have been impossible for him to act inappropriately with her in his office and then tell her to hide since there would be no place to hide."

McDonough and O'Connell believed the woman's story was credible, according to the document signed by both men and McGrath in 1988.

Yet Archbishop John Roach allowed McGrath to remain in ministry at his assignment as pastor of Sacred Heart in Robbinsdale.

In 1993, McDonough met with two women who said that McGrath sexually abused them as children at the rectory of St. Helena Catholic Church in Minneapolis, according to a letter McDonough wrote on Feb. 9, 1993, to Roach. McDonough then met with McGrath, who denied the allegations.

Still, Roach allowed McGrath to remain the pastor of Sacred Heart.

Later that year, the two women sued the archdiocese, St. Helena Catholic Church and McGrath in Hennepin County for alleged sexual abuse by McGrath, according to a Nov. 11, 1993, [story in the St. Paul Pioneer Press](#). Victims' attorney Jeff Anderson told the newspaper that McGrath began sexually abusing the girls at St. Helena when they were 14 and 16 years old. The lawsuit said the abuse occurred from 1966 to 1969, according to the Pioneer Press report. A judge dismissed both cases, according to Anderson's records. His law firm appealed but settled both cases for a "nominal amount" before the appeal was heard.

Despite McDonough's previous statements in internal documents that he believed the women's claims were credible, he listed McGrath in a 2002 memo to Archbishop Harry Flynn as a priest with "disputed claims, marginal behavior, or undue attention."

McGrath died March 15, 1995, at age 63.

Assignments: Rev. John McGrath

Nativity of Our Lord St. Paul, MN	Associate priest and religion teacher	1956–1964
St. Helena Minneapolis, MN	Associate priest	1964–1968
St. Andrew St. Paul, MN	Associate priest	1968–1969
University of St. Thomas St. Paul, MN	Administrative staff	1969–1975
Sacred Heart Robbinsdale, MN	Pastor	1975–1994

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