



Diocese of Rockford

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Office of the Bishop

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*“With all my heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.
In my heart I treasure your promise that I may not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:10-11)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In January 2004, the Diocese of Rockford published a four-page report to the people of the Diocese of Rockford which outlined the history of sexual abuse of minors in the Diocese, and our diocesan policies and procedures for reporting and addressing sexual abuse of a minor. In that report the Diocese of Rockford disclosed that it had examined its files dating back to 1950 and found that between the years of 1950 and 2002, allegations of sexual abuse of a minor had been substantiated against three priests of the Diocese, and those priests were no longer in ministry.

Many dioceses in the United States have decided in recent months to publicly disclose a list of priests of their dioceses, by name, against whom substantiated allegations of childhood sexual abuse have been reported.

As faithful Catholics, we have experienced hurt and grief and indignation, the natural consequences of the horrendous sexual abuse scandal plaguing the Catholic Church. I have heard and shared your anger. I am making public today the list of priests of the Diocese of Rockford against whom allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been substantiated. The list includes the identities of the three priests referred to in the Diocese's 2004 report.

The practice of the Diocese has been to inform the faithful when a priest has been removed from ministry due to a credible allegation of sexual abuse or other inappropriate conduct. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list, and the list covers the time frame of 1908, when this Diocese was established, to the present.

An allegation against a priest who had an assignment in this Diocese but belongs to a religious order or other diocese is referred to the religious order or other diocese to which the priest belongs and is under its jurisdiction. That is our current practice. However, to the extent the Diocese is aware of a substantiated allegation against a religious order priest or priest from another diocese who was assigned in the Diocese of Rockford or, who at any time served within the geographical boundaries of this Diocese but was not assigned in this Diocese, the name of that priest is included in this list. The list is not limited to priests, and includes permanent deacons and religious.

Several of the priests named on the list and the allegations against them are not new and, over the years, have been the subject of public statements by the Rockford Diocese to affected parishes and the public, published information in *The Observer* Catholic newspaper, and other media reports. In some cases, names of clergy not previously disclosed appear on this list, and that is because the allegations in their regard were reviewed in the process of compiling this list and were judged to be substantiated.

Finally, the list of names will be updated as necessary, and will be maintained as public information on the Diocese of Rockford website.

The people of the Diocese can be assured that those clergy members who are ministering to them today in their parishes and schools and other diocesan facilities are doing so according to the Diocese’s strict standards of pastoral and moral conduct.

Publishing this list does not ameliorate the criminal acts of abusers. Our continued prayer is that victims of these priests find some bit of peace in seeing this list, and that all victims of sexual abuse find the courage to come forward and know that assistance is available to them. It is important that the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Rockford are free to worship in environments that are safe, and that all clergy, staff and volunteers are criminally background checked, trained and held accountable for that safety. It is our policy that no clergy, staff or volunteer with a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse of a minor made against him or her shall be allowed to minister in this Diocese.

For more information about the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Essential Norms, the Diocese’s safe environment policies and training of children and adults in prevention, detection and reporting of sexual abuse, please visit www.rockforddiocese.org.

To report an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor please call the police in the county in which the abuse occurred and then contact the Diocese of Rockford at its victim abuse hotline at **815-293-7540** or reportsexualabuse@rockforddiocese.org.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,



Most Reverend David J. Malloy
Bishop of Rockford

Diocese of Rockford Priests against whom
a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse of a minor has been reported

Priest	Ordination date	Status of accused
Mark A. Campobello	1991	Removed from ministry December 2002 Laicized 2005
Harlan B. Clapsaddle	1977	Removed from ministry January 1997 Reassigned to ministry not involving minors November 1997 Removed from ministry March 2002
Thomas Considine	1966	Removed from ministry April 1980 Deceased March 1988
John C. Holdren	1971	Removed from ministry for reason not related to a child abuse allegation July 1994 Deceased April 2018
William I. Joffe	1957	Removed from ministry August 1993 Deceased April 2008
Joseph J. M. Tully	1925	Retired January 1971 Deceased December 1982

Diocese of Rockford Permanent Deacons against whom
a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse of a minor has been reported

Deacon	Ordination date	Status of accused
Michael Frazier	1982 as a permanent deacon	Retired 2011 Removed from ministry by Diocese of Knoxville on February 2014 Faculties removed by this Diocese February 2014

Religious Order Priests/Brothers or Priests of another diocese, who worked within the geographical boundaries of
the Rockford Diocese or were assigned in this Diocese, against whom
a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse of a minor has been reported

Priest/Brother	Ordination date	Status of accused
James Campbell, M.S.C. Missionaries of the Sacred Heart religious order	1972	Removed from ministry by religious order May 2002 Dismissed from the priesthood February 2005 Deceased 2007
Theodore Feely, OFM. Conv. Conventual Franciscans of St. Bonaventure Province religious order	1958	Deceased 1991
Walter E. Johnson, M.M. Maryknoll Missionaries religious order	1953	Removed from ministry by religious order April 1988 Returned to ministry by religious order September 1988 Removed from ministry by religious order April 1993 Deceased April 2018
Augustine K. Jones, O.S.B. Benedictine religious order	1953	Removed from ministry by religious order August 1993 Deceased September 2007
Peter D. Kohler, M.S. Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette religious order	1968	Deceased June 2014
Richard Kuhl, M.S.C. religious brother of the Missionaries of Sacred Heart religious order	1954 (Final Profession of Vows)	Removed from ministry by religious order 1996 Deceased 2009
Joseph M. Lessard, priest of the Diocese of Phoenix	1980	Removed from ministry by hospital employer and Diocese of Rockford February 2001 Removed from ministry by Diocese of Phoenix 2002
William D. Virtue, priest of the Diocese of Peoria	1975	Removed from ministry by Diocese of Peoria and Diocese of Rockford February 2006