

## **PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS CREDIBLY ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS WHO HAVE SERVED WITHIN THE CURRENT TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES OF THE DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES**

By a decree of Pope John Paul II, the Diocese of Las Cruces was formed on August 17, 1982. The territorial limits of the diocese were defined as the New Mexico counties of Doña Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Luna, Otero and a portion of Sierra, which had formerly been the jurisdiction of the Diocese of El Paso, the counties of Lincoln, Chavez and the remaining portion of Sierra which had been under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

The following table contains a list of priests and religious who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors and who have served in parishes located within the territorial limits of the Diocese of Las Cruces before and after its creation. Some of the accusations have arisen when the accused were working in the Southern New Mexico and others are related to accusations made in another diocese.

The persons named in this report have been included because the allegations against them have been reviewed and deemed credible by the diocese's Sexual Abuse Review Board, which is composed of lay professionals with expertise in law enforcement, mental health, and children's health, or they have been included on similar lists in other dioceses. In determining allegations against an individual to be credible, the Diocese of Las Cruces is not making a definitive statement as to the veracity of the allegations nor the guilt of the accused, only that the allegations are serious and have not been discredited. By their very nature, these allegations are extremely serious and only a court of law can state definitively whether or not they are true.

From time to time, the Diocese of Las Cruces may add names to this list as people come forward with new information. Any person with knowledge of sexual misconduct with a minor by these individuals or any other past or present clergy or employees of the Diocese of Las Cruces are asked to immediately share this information with your local police or sheriff's department. After contacting the authorities, you may also contact Margarita Martinez, the Victim's Assistance Coordinator for the diocese at 575-523-7577 or [mmartinez@rcdlc.org](mailto:mmartinez@rcdlc.org) with any questions or concerns you may have.

NAME	DATE OF ALLEGED INCIDENT	DATE OF REPORT	STATUS	ASSIGNMENTS IN THE DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES
Almaguer, Santiago (Diocese of El Paso)	1975-1978	2012		1978 Our Lady of Health, Las Cruces
Barfield, Daniel R.	1990	2013	Died: 2003	1985-1990 Holy Family, Deming 1990-2003 St. Jude, Alamogordo
Bentley, David*	1998-2000	2018		1998-2002 Holy Family, Deming
* Inclusion on the list is based upon complaints in the Diocese of Albany and not upon the veracity of any complaints in the Diocese of Las Cruces. Bentley is the subject of an unresolved lawsuit filed in 2018 alleging abuse at a parish in Deming.				
Bissonnette, Bernard	1983	1989	Laicized: 2005 Died: 2008	1981-1984 St. Eleanor, Ruidoso 1984 Immaculate Heart of Mary, Las Cruces 1985-1987 St. Jude, Alamogordo 1988-1992 Our Lady of Perpetual Help, T or C
Chavez, Albert	1984	2002	Died: 1996	1977-1983 Our Lady of Perpetual Help, T or C 1984-1985 Our Lady of Purification
Diamond, Wilfred	1987-1988	2013	Died:1995	1965-1988 St. Jude, Alamogordo
Esquivel, Miguel	No Claims in DoLC Diocese of San Angelo List of Credibly Accused			1996 La Tuna Prison Chaplain
Fountain, Dennis	1960	2009	Died: 2013	1992-1995 St. Peter, Roswell 1992-1999 St. John, Roswell 1994-1995 Immaculate Conception, Dexter 1999-2000 St. Peter, Roswell 2000-2001 St. Anthony, Artesia 2001-2008 St. Helena, Hobbs
Garcia, Samuel	1977	1996	Laicized: 2007	1971-1977 Our Lady of Fatima, Bayard 1979 Infant Jesus, Hurley 1982-1983 St. Joseph, Lordsburg 194-1985 St. Joseph, Fairacres 1987-1991 St. Martin de Porres, Sunland Park 1992-1993 St. Joseph, Lordsburg
Guillory, Kerry (Diocese of El Paso)	1975-1978	2007		1972-1974 St. Edwards School, Carlsbad 1972 San Jose, Carlsbad 1975-1978 Catholic Youth Organization, Carlsbad

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Holley, David (Diocese of Worcester)	1972-1974	1993	Convicted: 1993 Died: 2008	1972-1975	St. Jude Alamogordo
Klister, Irving (Archdiocese of Santa Fe)	1950's	1993	Deceased	1968	Holy Family, Deming Our Lady of Perpetual Help, T or C
Labreche, Laurier (Archdiocese of Santa Fe)	1967	2002		1962-1968	St. Eleanor, Ruidoso
Ladenburger, Wayne (Franciscan)	No Claims in DoLC Arrested in Idaho		Laicized: 1996	1969-1970 1969-1970	Holy Cross Retreat Center, Las Cruces St. Albert, Las Cruces
Lopez, Rosario (Diocese of El Paso)	1974	2010		1974	St. Genevieve, Las Cruces
Lynch, Richard P	1971,1982	1992	Removed From Ministry: 1992  Died: 2017	1967-1970 1975-1977 1977-1978 1981-1983 1983-1985 1985-1987 1987-1990 1990-1992	San Jose, La Mesa Our Lady of Health, Las Cruces Immaculate Conception, Alamogordo Our Lady of Purification, Doña Ana St. Thomas Aquinas, Lovington Our Lady of Perpetual Help, T or C St. Vincent de Paul, Silver City Our Lady of Purification, Doña Ana
Maramba, Manuel Perez (Diocese of El Paso)	1976-1977	2004-2012	Living in Philippine Is.	1976 1976-1977	St. Francis Newman Center, Silver City St. Genevieve, Las Cruces
Martin, Phillip	1984	2002		1983-1984	NMMI, Roswell
Mazon, Diego (Archdiocese of Santa Fe)	1974	2004		1972-1977	St. John Parish, Roswell
Morgan, Arthur C.	1973	2013	Died: 2007	1968-1971 1971-1991	Our Lord of Mercy, Hatch San Isidro, Garfield

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O'Sullivan, Arthur (Diocese of El Paso)	1950's	1993		Holy Family, Deming	
Primavera, Bruno	1990	1990, 2016	Died:2006	1989-1990 1989-1990	NMMI, Roswell Assumption, Roswell
Pudei, Casilda (Diocese of El Paso)	1957	1993	Died:1987	1956-1957	St. Edward's School, Carlsbad
Sierra, Frank (Archdiocese of Santa Fe)	No Claims in DoLC On Archdiocese of Santa Fe's List of Credibly Accused			1962 1962-1968	Immaculate Conception, Alamogordo Our Lady of Fatima, Bayard
Silva, Benjamin	No Claims in DoLC On Archdiocese of Santa Fe's List of Credibly Accused Clergy			1983 1984-1985 1986	St. Thomas More, Chaparral Immaculate Conception, Berino Holy Cross, Las Cruces
Tejada, Dennis	1973	2002	Laicized: 2007	1976-1981 1982-1989 1990 1991 1992-1993 1994-1996	St. Thomas more, Chaparral Our Lady of Guadalupe, Hobbs St. Genevieve, Las Cruces Sta. Rosa de Lima, las Cruces Our Lady of Purification, Doña Ana Our Lady of Perpetual Help, T or C
Tickle, John	1976-1977	2004	Removed: 2004	1984 1985 1985-1993 1999-2000	Immaculate Heart of Mary, LC St. Francis Newman Center, Silver City St. Albert Newman Center, Las Cruces Immaculate Heart of Mary, Las Cruces
Viramontes, David	1986	2012	Died: 1997	1985-1988 1992-1997	St. Genevieve, Las Cruces St. Joseph, Fairacres