

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CLERGY CREDIBLY ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

For purposes of this list, a credible allegation is one which, based upon a review of the available facts and circumstances, is more likely than not to be true. Factors considered in making this determination included the details provided by the accuser; corroborating evidence; sincerity, circumstances, and reputation of the accuser and the accused; the accused clergy's history (including any previous difficulties, suspicions or, in the case of previously accused clergy, allegations); and, if applicable, the accused's admission of wrongdoing. No one factor was determinative; but rather a totality of the circumstances was considered. Since the establishment of the Review Board in 2003, the determination of credibility is made in consultation with the Review Board in all cases of incardinated clergy (priests and deacons) accused of sexual abuse of a minor while the clergy is still living and not yet laicized (removed from the clergy state).

I. Clergy incardinated in the Diocese of Columbus against whom a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor within the Diocese was made and investigated while the clergy was living

| Name | Ordained | Status |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Fr. Ronald Atwood | 1969 | Deceased |
| Fr. Thomas Brosmer | 1969 | Removed from ministry |
| Fr. R. Michael Ellifritz | 1967 | Laicized |
| Fr. Roger Emmert | 1962 | Deceased |
| Msgr. Joseph Fete | 1974 | Laicized |
| Fr. Michael Hanrahan | 1971 | Laicized, deceased |
| Dcn. James Hutson | 1982 | Deceased |
| Fr. Philip Jacobs | 1974 | Laicized |
| Fr. Raymond Lavelle | 1957 | Deceased |
| Fr. Frederick Loyd | 1970 | Laicized |
| Fr. Robert Luchi | 1957 | Deceased |
| Fr. Bernard McClory | 1953 | Deceased |
| Fr. Thomas McLaughlin | 1956 | Laicized, deceased |
| Fr. Samuel Ritchey | 1973 | Laicized, deceased |
| Fr. Francis Schaefer | 1955 | Deceased |
| Fr. George Tumeo | 1965 | Laicized |
| Fr. Martin Weithman | 1980 | Laicized |

II. Clergy incardinated in the Diocese of Columbus against whom a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor within the Diocese was made after the clergy's death¹

| Name | Ordained | Status |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Msgr. Harry Estadt | 1932 | Deceased |
| Fr. John Geiger | 1957 | Deceased |
| Fr. Louis Hoffman | 1943 | Deceased |
| Fr. John J. Ryan | 1959 | Deceased |
| Fr. Robert Schmidt | 1943 | Deceased |
| Fr. Ted Spires | 1961 | Laicized, deceased |
| Fr. Alan Sprenger | 1960 | Deceased |
| Fr. John Tague | 1951 | Deceased |

III. Clergy incardinated in the Diocese of Columbus against whom a credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor at a location outside the Diocese was made and investigated while the cleric was living.

| Name | Ordained | Status |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Fr. Carl Drake | 1964 | Removed from ministry |

¹ The Diocese of Columbus also received an allegation of sexual abuse concerning Monsignor Thomas Bennett. The abuse allegedly occurred during the 2002-2003 school year. Monsignor Bennett served within the Diocese from 1957 until his death in 2008. The allegation was first made known to the Diocese of Columbus in May, 2018, and is the subject of a lawsuit filed on July 5, 2018 in the Franklin County Common Pleas Court, Ohio. Because this matter is in litigation, a credibility determination has not yet been made.

IV. Extern or religious clergy (clergy from other dioceses or religious orders) who served in the Diocese of Columbus who were credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors (alleged conduct occurred in the Diocese of Columbus).

| Name | Ordained | Status |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Fr. Hector Bellinato, PIME | 1935 | Deceased |
| Fr. David Heimann | 1958 | Deceased |
| Dcn. Gabriel Hernandez | 2008 | Dismissed from the Josephinum, laicized |
| Fr. Robert Hunt, C.PP.S. | 1954 | Deceased |
| Fr. Timothy Keane, SS.CC. | 1950 | Deceased |

V. Extern or religious clergy who served in the Diocese of Columbus that were credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors elsewhere (alleged conduct occurred outside the Diocese of Columbus)

| Name | Ordained | Status |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Fr. Pierre Albalaa, MSM | 1995 | Removed from ministry |
| Fr. Frank Benham | 1963 | Left ministry |
| Msgr. Robert A. Brown | 1939 | Deceased |
| Fr. Aaron J. Cote, OP | 1986 | Deceased |
| Fr. Kenneth France-Kelly, OP | 1981 | Deceased |
| Fr. Walter H. Horan, OP | 1945 | Deceased |
| Fr. Stephan L. Johnson, CSP | 1981 | No longer in ministry |
| Fr. Francis M. Sweeney, CSP | 1961 | Deceased |
| Fr. John J. Walsh, OMI | 1940 | Deceased |

This list will be supplemented based upon any future determinations of credible allegations.

Updated: 5/23/2019