

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 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

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

Updated: 3/5/2019