



The Catholic Diocese of Belleville **Clergy Removed from Ministry**

Below is The Catholic Diocese of Belleville's list of clergy who were removed from ministry based on credible allegations that they engaged in the sexual abuse of minors or serious sexual misconduct with adults. The Diocese is providing this list with the prayerful intention and hope that individuals who may have been affected by childhood sexual abuse will find it helpful to their healing and recovery.

The Catholic Diocese of Belleville has endeavored to make this list as complete and accurate as possible. However, the information appearing in it is subject to change when and if additional information is received.

The Diocese encourages anyone with information about alleged sexual misconduct by a priest or other diocesan personnel to contact law enforcement and call the Hotline number: 1-800-640-3044.

Incardinated Clergy of the Diocese of Belleville

<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Status</u>
Fr. James R. Calhoun <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> St. Bruno, Pinckneyville St. Luke, Belleville St. Peter, Belleville St. Catherine, Grand Chain Our Lady of Fatima, Ullin Our Lady of Lourdes, Sparta St. Anthony, Coulterville Blessed Sacrament, Belleville St. Boniface, Germantown	May 3, 1955	Removed from ministry March 18, 1993; <i>Died on May 26, 1996</i>
Fr. Robert Chlopecki <u>Assigned Parishes:</u> Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Herrin St. Albert, Fairview Heights St. Stephen, Caseyville Our Lady of Good Counsel, Renault St. Aloysius/Sacred Heart, Royalton/Ziegler St. Mary, Mound City St. Catherine, Grand Chain	June 8, 1974	Removed from ministry April 25, 1993

Clergy**Ordained****Status**

Our Lady of Fatima, Ullin
St. Ann, Nashville

Fr. David G. Crook

June 6, 1981

Removed from ministry March 30, 1993

Assigned Parishes:

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Herrin
Holy Spirit, Carterville
St. Teresa, Belleville
St. Mary, Mt. Vernon
St. Rose, Metropolis
St. Philip, East St. Louis
St. George, New Baden

Fr. Edwin G. Kastner

May 15, 1951

Removed from ministry September 13,
1993; *Died on May 1, 2012*Assigned Parishes:

Blessed Sacrament, Belleville
St. Clare, O'Fallon
St. Barbara, Okawville
St. Elizabeth, Ava
St. Ann, Raddle
St. Joseph, Willisville
St. Mary, Mound City
St. Joseph, Lebanon
St. Mary, Valmeyer
St. Rose, St. Rose

Fr. Ramond Kownacki

June 4, 1960

Removed from ministry January 13, 1995;
laicized January 11, 2013Assigned Parishes:

St. Clare, O'Fallon
St. Adalbert, East St. Louis
St. Joseph, Freeburg
St. Francis Xavier, St. Francisville
St. Martin of Tours, Washington
Park
St. Theresa of Avila, Salem
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Kinmundy
St. Joseph, Cobden
St. Mary, Harrisburg
St. Patrick, Tipton
Immaculate Conception,
Madonnaville

Clergy**Ordained****Status****Fr. Eugene G. Linnemann**

June 7, 1980

Removed from ministry May 9, 1993; *Died on March 1, 2011*Assigned Parishes:Blessed Sacrament, Belleville
St. Albert, Fairview Heights
St. Patrick, Ruma
St. Leo, Modoc**Fr. Walter E. MacPherson**

May 3, 1955

Removed from ministry February 4, 1994;
*Died on July 16, 2011*Assigned Parishes:St. Martin of Tours, Washington Park
St. Joseph, Prairie du Rocher
St. Michael, Paderborn**Fr. Thomas W. Miller**

May 28, 1977

*Died January 6, 2004*Assigned Parishes:St. Joseph, Olney
St. Clare, O'Fallon
St. Mary, Anna**Fr. Arthur W. Niemeyer**

May 4, 1949

*Died April 26, 1988*Assigned Parishes:St. Peter, Belleville
St. Luke, Belleville
St. Theresa of Avila, Salem
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Kinmundy
Holy Family, Cahokia**Fr. Louis Peterson**

June 8, 1974

Removed from ministry January 24, 1994

Assigned Parishes:St. Augustine, Belleville
St. Mary, Belleville
St. Edward, Fairfield
St. Sebastian, St. Sebastian
Holy Family, Cahokia
St. Teresa, Belleville**Fr. Jerome Ratermann**

June 1, 1957

Removed from ministry March 5, 1993

Assigned Parishes:Immaculate Conception, Centreville
St. Henry, East St. Louis
St. Henry, Belleville
St. John, West Frankfort
St. Joseph, Prairie du Rocher
Saints Peter & Paul, Waterloo
Blessed Sacrament, Belleville

Clergy**Ordained****Status****Fr. Alan Ruppert**

June 3, 1978

Removed from ministry October 19, 1998

Assigned Parishes:

St. Mary, Mt. Carmel
 St. Teresa, Belleville
 St. Dominic, Breese
 Immaculate Conception,
 Centreville
 St. Philip, East St. Louis
 Holy Rosary, Fairmont City
 St. Clement, McLeansboro
 St. John Nepomucene, Dahlgren

Msgr. Joseph R. Schwaegel

May 1, 1965

Removed from ministry December 6, 1994;
*Died on July 13, 2016*Assigned Parishes:

St. Mary, Trenton
 St. Bernard, Albers
 St. Peter, Belleville
 St. Mary, Belleville

Fr. Gary Sebescak

June 4, 1994

Removed from ministry April 24, 1995

Assigned Parishes:

St. Mary, Mt. Vernon

Deacon Francis Theis

Oct. 19, 1980

Removed from ministry May 5, 1993; *Died on July 13, 2010*Assigned Parishes:

St. Augustine, Canterbury

Fr. Robert Vonnahmen

May 26, 1956

Removed from ministry March 18, 1993;
laicized April 23, 2007; *Died on May 8, 2016*Assigned Parishes:

St. Patrick, East St. Louis
 St. Philip, East St. Louis
 St. Joseph, Elizabethtown

Removed from Ministry After 2002:**Clergy****Ordained****Status****Fr. Edward Balestrieri**

June 6, 1959

Removed from ministry May 1, 2002; *Died on September 10, 2012*Assigned Parishes:

St. Joseph, Marion
 St. Joseph, Cobden
 Immaculate Conception,
 Shawneetown
 St. Patrick, Pond Settlement
 St. Mary Magdalen, Todd's Mill
 St. Paul, Vienna
 St. Francis de Sales, Stonefort
 St. Mary, Sesser

Clergy**Ordained****Status****Fr. Gerald R. Hechenberger**

June 1, 1996

Removed from ministry January 10, 2018
*Died on March 6, 2020*Assigned Parishes:

St. Joseph, Olney

St. Joseph, Stringtown

St. Sebastian, Fairfield

Holy Family, Cahokia

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dupo

St. John the Baptist, Smithton

Holy Childhood, St. Libory

Fr. William Rensing

May 3, 1955

Removed from ministry October 21, 2002;
*Died on March 13, 2017*Assigned Parishes:

St. Peter, Belleville

St. Pancratius, Favetteville

Our Lady of the Assumption,

Fairview Heights

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sparta

Religious Order and Extern Clergy Who Served in the Diocese

Members of religious orders and clergy who have been incardinated in a different diocese (referred to as “extern clergy”) may at times reside or be assigned to minister in the Diocese. Such religious order and extern clerics remain subject at all times to the supervision and authority of the religious order or the “originating” diocese where they were incardinated. Accordingly, the below list consists of religious order and extern clergy who were assigned to minister in, or had another meaningful connection with, the Diocese and who were determined by their respective religious order or originating diocese to have been credibly accused of childhood sexual abuse. Additional inquiries about these clerics should be directed to their religious order or originating diocese.

Michael Charland, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

James V. Fitzgerald, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

Eugene T. Fitzsimmons, The Marianists

-Deceased

Charles E. Gaiter, Jesuits U.S. Central & Southern Province

-Deceased

Paul Kabat, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

-Deceased

Larry Lorenzoni, Selesians of St. John Bosco

-Deceased

Patrick J. McNulty, The Marianists

-Deceased

Louis J. Meinhardt, The Marianists

-Deceased

Thomas G. Meyer, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

-Deceased

Orville L. Munie, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

-Deceased

Anthony J. Pistone, The Marianists

-Deceased

Thomas P. Purcell, The Marianists

Kenneth Roberts, Diocese of Dallas, Texas

-Deceased

Francis Skube, Brothers of Christ the King

Emil Twardochleb, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Central Province

-Deceased

