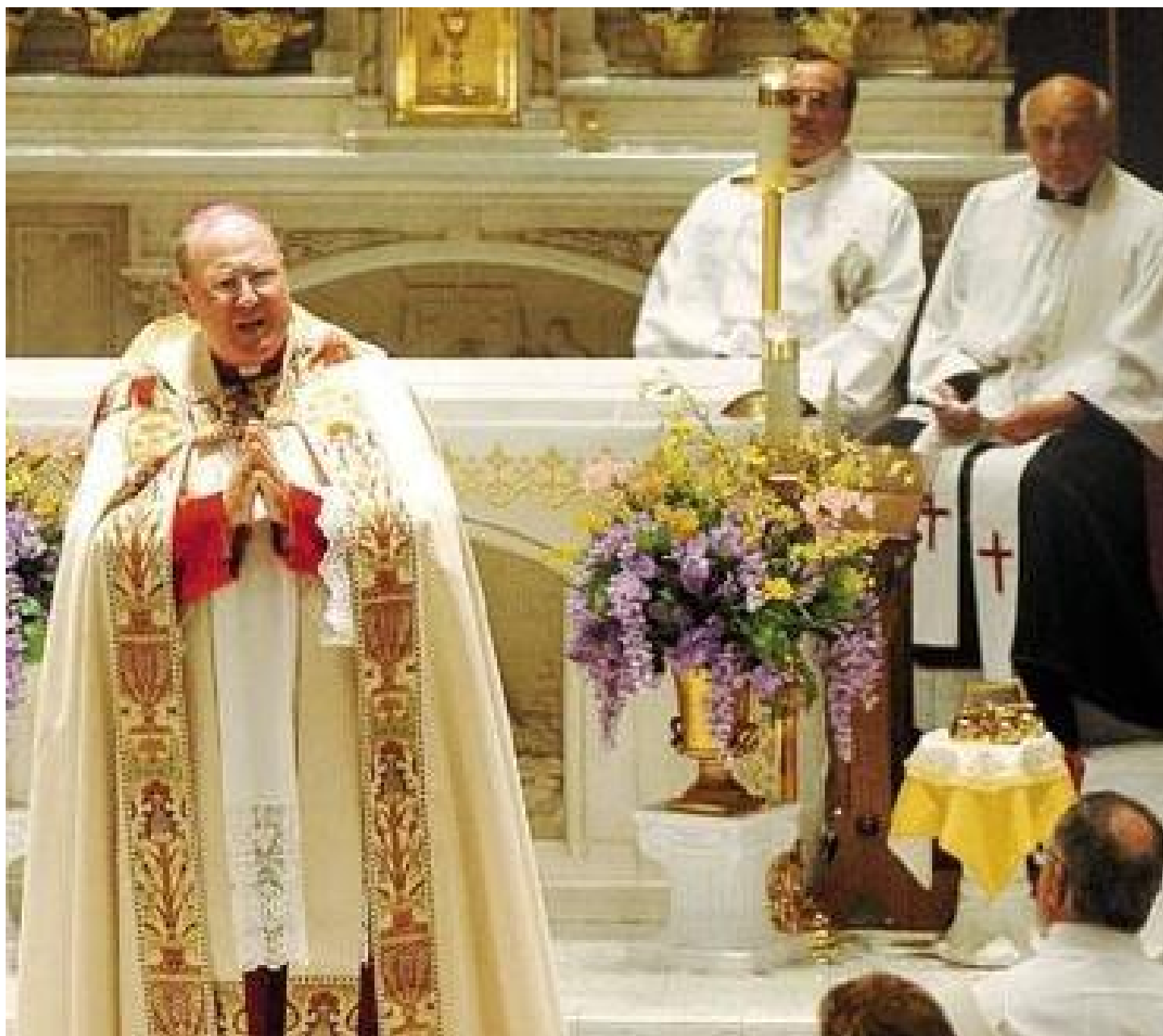


https://www.dailyfreeman.com/news/local-news/catholic-church-finds-ex-kingston-priest-not-guilty-of-child/article_493d813e-8c83-11e9-bc82-a36cbe2fcae5.html

FEATURED

Catholic Church finds ex-Kingston priest not guilty of child sex abuse month after placing him on 'credibly accused' list

By Brian Hubert bhubert@freemanonline.com [@brianatfreeman](https://twitter.com/brianatfreeman) on Twitter Jun 11, 2019



Archbishop Timothy Dolan, leader of the Archdiocese of New York, speaks to a standing-room-only crowd at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Uptown Kingston in April 2009. Behind him are the Rev. Frank Damis, second from right, pastor of St. Joseph's, and Msgr. William Williams, then vicar of Ulster County. Tania Barricklo — Daily Freeman file

SAUGERTIES, N.Y. — A Catholic priest who served in Kingston and Saugerties has been found not guilty of sexually abusing a child at a canonical trial by a Vatican-authorized tribunal, the Archdiocese of New York said Tuesday.

Word of the decision regarding Msgr. William Williams came just over a month after he appeared on an archdiocese list of 120 priests "credibly accused of sexual abuse."

The tribunal found Williams not guilty of the charge of sexually abusing one minor, Joseph Zwilling, the archdiocese's director of communications, said in an email Tuesday.

Williams was ordained in 1955. After serving as an administrator and a parochial vicar at St. Joseph's Church in Kingston, he served there as a pastor from 1982 to 1994. He was pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Saugerties from 1994 to 2009, regional vicar of Ulster County from 1982 until 2010, and was named as a monsignor in 1995. Williams retired in 2011.

Williams was among 12 priests in the Mid-Hudson Valley who appeared on the list, which was released on April 26 by the Archdiocese.

As of Tuesday afternoon, Williams' name remained on a list on the Archdiocese website of priests credibly accused of sexual abuse. He was listed in the subcategory of clergy who "are awaiting final canonical or archdiocesan disposition of allegations against them."

Williams is listed as "Removed from ministry; allegation found credible and substantiated by archdiocesan Review Board; canonical process pending."

"Given his age and his health, he would not be able to return to ministry," Zwilling said in a second email. He did not specify if Williams remained officially barred from ministry or his status with the church.

Zwilling also did not provide details of how the Review Board found the allegation "credible and substantiated," how that investigation was conducted or when alleged incident occurred.

Zwilling additionally did not say if Williams' name was to be removed from the list or if there were any other allegations against him; not did he provide details about the tribunal or what a "not guilty" verdict means in a church setting.

Zwilling said no other priests with pending cases have been exonerated at this time.

A call to Williams' last known phone number was not returned Tuesday.





12 priests accused of sex abuse worked or lived in Mid-Hudson Valley

New York Archdiocese names 120 priests accused of sex abuse

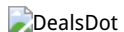


LETTER: Grateful for exoneration of Msgr. Williams

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