



Statement on updated list of credibly accused or removed from ministry in the Diocese of Jefferson City

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

Dec. 16, 2018

On November 8 I provided to the people of our Diocese and the public a list of 33 priests and religious brothers who have either been credibly accused or removed from ministry in the Diocese of Jefferson City out of concern for the safety of our youth. Today, I am providing an updated list. With this update, two names are added to those who have been credibly accused of abuse and one name, which is of a priest who was removed from ministry out of safety concerns, has now been determined to be credibly accused of abuse. This update is the result of information we received after our November 8 release and recent action by the Diocesan Review Board.

The three priests are: Don Greene, deceased; Mel Lahr, removed from ministry because of a credible allegation of violation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People; and Robert Duesdieker, whose removal from ministry now results from a credible allegation of violation of the Charter.

These men have been added to the list after our Diocesan Review Board on Dec. 5 made a recommendation that the allegations against them be deemed credible. After considering all the testimony, I accept the Review Board's recommendation and deem these allegations credible. I am grateful to the members of the Review Board for their expertise and commitment to our Diocese's efforts to provide safe, holy and healthy environments for our children, young people and vulnerable adults.

It is important to remember that, while only one on the list has been criminally convicted, the Church holds a much higher standard for those who serve its people holding a sacred trust. The solemn vows we take when we are ordained or enter religious life call us to higher standards of conduct. As of today, there has not ever been a credible accusation of sexual abuse of a minor against any clergy or religious now serving in the Diocese of Jefferson City.

It is with great sorrow that I publish this list. I humbly and sincerely offer my deepest apologies to those who have been abused by clergy and religious. I also offer my condolences to them, their families, friends, and communities.

We want to provide care for those who have been harmed. Today we are publishing what we know. If you have further information about any priest, deacon or religious brother or sister, please contact the appropriate civil authorities. You may also contact our Victims Assistance Coordinator, Nancy Hoey. Her contact information is available on our website, and in this handout.

Even with these new credibly accused, the most recent case in our Diocese of physical sexual abuse of a minor occurred in 1997. Since then, we have had two credible allegations of violations of the U.S. Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*: one being the inappropriate use of social media; and the other, Internet pornography depicting minors. Although the incidents are in the past, the pain caused is still a present reality for the survivors of abuse and their loved ones. I pray this effort on our part provides some small measure of hope and opens an opportunity for healing to those immediately harmed by sexual abuse.



Priests and religious brothers credibly accused and/or removed from ministry in the Diocese of Jefferson City

Dec. 16, 2018: **changes underlined**

Clergy and religious brothers who have served in the Diocese of Jefferson City who have been credibly accused of actions which were in violation of the Charter for The Protection of Children and Young People ("Charter") or which would have constituted a violation of the Charter if the Charter had been in effect:

Name of Cleric	Diocese/Religious Order	Status
Behan, Hugh	Diocese of Jefferson City	removed from ministry
Clohessy, Kevin	Diocese of Jefferson City	removed from ministry
Daly, Manus	Diocese of Jefferson City	removed from ministry
DeAngelis, John B.	Diocese of Jefferson City	deceased (1989)
Degnan, John	Diocese of Jefferson City	deceased (2010)
Doyle, Brendan	Diocese of Jefferson City	removed from ministry
<u>Duesdieker, Robert</u>	<u>Diocese of Jefferson City</u>	<u>removed from ministry</u>
Duggan, Thomas	Diocese of Jefferson City	deceased (2009)
Faletti, Stephen	Diocese of Jefferson City	deceased (2017)
Fischer, John	Diocese of Jefferson City	removed from ministry
<u>Greene, Don</u>	<u>Diocese of Jefferson City</u>	<u>deceased (1985)</u>
Howard, Gerald/Carmen Sita	Archdiocese of Newark, NJ	imprisoned
<u>Lahr, Mel</u>	<u>Diocese of Jefferson City</u>	<u>removed from ministry</u>
Long, John	Diocese of Jefferson City	removed from ministry
McMyler, Patrick	Diocese of Jefferson City	deceased (1985)
McNally, James	Diocese of Jefferson City	laicized
Mohan, James	Diocese of Jefferson City	deceased (1990)
Musholt, Silas	Franciscan Friars	deceased (1999)
O'Connell, Anthony	Diocese of Jefferson City	deceased (2012)
Pender, John	Diocese of Scranton PA	deceased (2009)
Pool, Gary	Diocese of Jefferson City	laicized
Schutty, John	Diocese of Jefferson City	removed from ministry
Scobee, Robert	Diocese of Jefferson City	deceased (1979)
Seifner, Thomas	Diocese of Jefferson City	removed from ministry
Smyth, Sean	Diocese of Jefferson City	deceased (1990)
Tatro, Timothy	Diocese of Jefferson City	removed from ministry
Wallace, Donald	Diocese of Jefferson City	removed from ministry
Westhoff, Frank	Diocese of Springfield, IL	deceased (2006)
Whiteley, John	Diocese of Jefferson City	removed from ministry

Name of Religious	Diocese/Religious Order	Status
Bro. Dominic Nixon	Presentation Brothers	removed from ministry in the diocese
Bro. Eric Lucas	Presentation Brothers	removed from ministry in the diocese
Bro. Jude Collins	Presentation Brothers	deceased (2000)

Clergy who have served in the Diocese of Jefferson City found by the diocesan bishop to be unsuitable for ministry out of concern for the safety of our youth:

Name of Cleric	Diocese/Religious Order	Status
Buescher, David	Diocese of Jefferson City	deceased (2013)
Mulokozi, Deuseddit	Society of the Precious Blood	expelled from the diocese
Schlachter, Eric	Diocese of Jefferson City	removed from ministry



Priests and Religious Brothers Credibly Accused and/or Removed From Ministry Diocese of Jefferson City

Clergy who have served in the Diocese of Jefferson City who have been credibly accused of actions which were in violation of the Charter for The Protection of Children and Young People (“Charter”) or which would have constituted a violation of the Charter if the Charter had been in effect:	29
Clergy who have served in the Diocese of Jefferson City found by the diocesan bishop to be unsuitable for ministry out of concern for the safety of our youth:	3
Religious brothers who have served in the Diocese of Jefferson City who have been credibly accused of actions which were in violation of the Charter or which would have constituted a violation of the Charter if the Charter had been in effect:	3

Median year of birth:
1938

Median year of ordination:
1964

**Averages from the PA attorney
general report: year of birth 1933,
year of ordination 1961**

Member of a religious order
(priest or brother):
5

From another diocese:
3

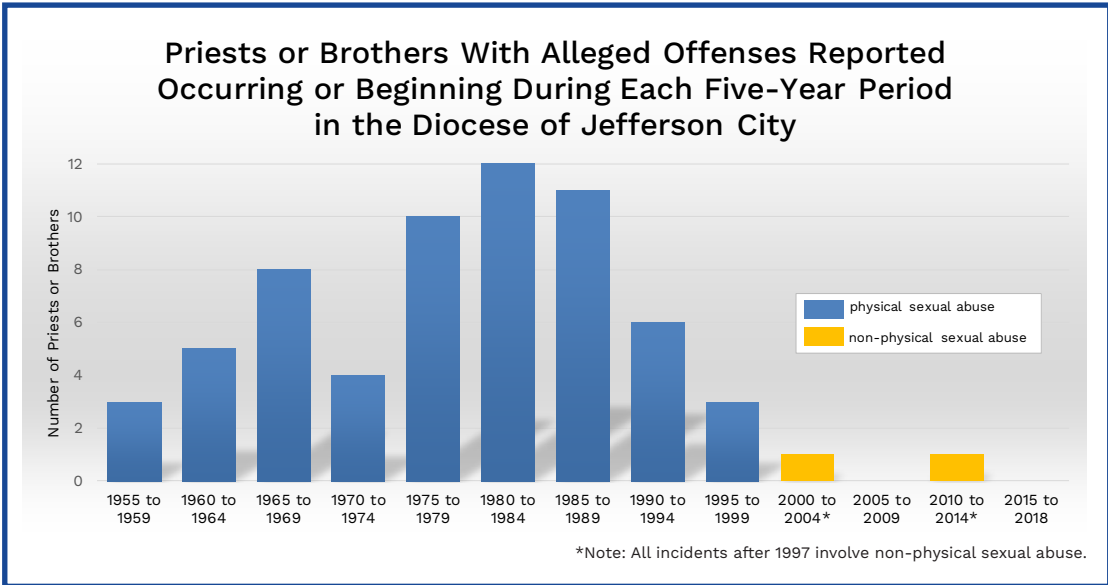
Diocese of Jefferson City:
27

Deceased:
15

Laicized:
2

Living priests of the Diocese
of Jefferson City permanently
removed from ministry:
14

Living priests or brothers from
outside of the diocese:
4





Four Ways the Diocese of Jefferson City is Preventing Sexual Abuse



Creating safe environments

Every person who works or volunteers for the Church in a setting with children must undergo a background check and receive training on safe environment. This means nearly 18,000 people in our Diocese know the warning signs of predatory behavior, know the Diocese's code of conduct and know how to report suspicious activity of anyone who might want to harm children. The most recent incident of physical sexual abuse of a minor in our Diocese occurred in 1997.



Reporting abuse

If you or someone you know has been abused or victimized by someone representing the Catholic Church, believe in the possibility for hope, help and healing. Please contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Nancy Hoey, at 573-694-3199 or reportabuse@diojeffcity.org. Also contact the Missouri Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline at 1-800-392-3738 or the Missouri Adult Abuse & Neglect Hotline at 1-800-392-0210.



Thoroughly investigating

Every allegation of abuse by someone representing the Catholic Church, whether it concerns a minor or an adult, is reviewed by an independent group of professionals. The bishop has used a confidential consultative body since 1991. Today, the Diocesan Review Board is comprised of 24 individuals. Their professional and personal expertise includes attorney-at-law, counseling, criminal justice, education (including a Catholic school principal), human resources, law enforcement, pastoral ministry (including a pastor), pediatrics, psychiatry, and social services. The bishop relies on their recommendations to determine how to respond to allegations of sexual misconduct or abuse.



Improving standards for clergy

Every candidate for the priesthood and diaconate undergoes a thorough investigation and formation. Seminarians and diaconal candidates for the Diocese of Jefferson City are required to undergo psychological screening, receive safe environment training and criminal record checks, and receive formation in psychosexual development.