



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 1, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As this holy season of Advent begins, our Catholic faith reminds us that this is a time of preparation, a time to set our minds and hearts toward the coming of Jesus Christ. For many, the practice of prayerful reflection during this time is often disturbed by the chaos in our own lives and the lives of those around us. The four weeks of Advent are meant to help each and every one of us truly experience a season of hope and joyful expectation.

It is in that spirit that I am compelled to write to you today. The news over the past few months of the tragic failings of the Catholic Church has been deeply distressing and has caused many to lose faith and trust. It continues to weigh heavily on our hearts. Personally for me, as your bishop, I have prayerfully considered what I can do to help rebuild trust and forge a path to restoring and strengthening the faith.

Many of you are aware that there is divisiveness in the diocese regarding the release of the names of those with credible allegations of sexually abusing a minor. Over the years, I have explained that there are individuals who have been harmed who wish to have all of the names published and others who have explicitly asked to not have the name of their abuser made public. In order to respect their wishes, the name of an abuser was publicly confirmed only if the victim wished to make it known. Upon serious reflection and prayer, I have concluded that this practice has become a roadblock to moving our local Church forward. Additionally, I believe it is not fair to my successor whomever he is or whenever he comes, to leave him with this decision.

On Monday, the names of those clergy who have had a credible allegation of sexually abusing a minor in the Diocese of Syracuse over the past 70 years will be posted on the diocesan website, www.syrdio.org and www.thecatholicsun.com, our diocesan newspaper. The list will include the names of both deceased priests and those living priests who have been removed from all ministry. There is no priest in active ministry with a credible complaint of child sexual abuse and any allegations received have been decades old. It is important to note that this list has been provided to the District Attorneys of all counties in the diocese. Diocesan protocols established since 2002 involving the laity, law enforcement and other professionals are effective and the diocese will not weaken its commitment to keeping children and young people safe.

While I am aware that the release of these names will cause pain for some victims, families of the accused, friends and parishioners, I know that we are at a critical juncture in the history of our Church. It is my fervent hope and prayer that this effort will bring some peace and healing to those who have been directly harmed and to all members of our community of faith.

As we enter Advent, let us pray for each other, as we are reminded that our only certainty at this time is the coming of the Lord Jesus.

Cordially yours,

Most Rev. Robert J. Cunningham
Bishop of Syracuse

Read Bishop Cunningham's Dec. 1 *Letter to the People* [here](#).

Since 2002, the Diocese of Syracuse has fully implemented the articles of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People including:

[A Comprehensive Child and Youth Protection Policy](#) which applies to all clergy, religious, employees and those volunteers whose ministry puts them in contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

[A Safe Environment Program](#) that requires training, education and criminal background checks of clergy, religious, employees and volunteers whose ministry places them in contact with children, which must be renewed every five years. The program also requires prevention and educational programs for children in the Catholic Schools and Faith Formation classes. Over 42,000 adults and over 15,000 children have been credentialed as of 11/2018.

[An Office of Victim Assistance](#) to provide support and services to individuals who may have been sexually abused by a member of the clergy or other members of the diocese.

[A Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the District Attorneys of the seven counties of the diocese which states that all allegations will be reported to the appropriate District Attorney before the diocese begins its canonical process.

[The Diocesan Review Board](#) made up of well qualified lay professionals, a priest and member of the religious to oversee investigations into allegations of clergy sexual abuse of a minor once the District Attorney has completed its review.

Tragically, the Diocese of Syracuse has members of its clergy who have harmed children and young people. By following the protocols of the Charter, significant steps have been taken to reach out to victims, involve the laity, partner with law enforcement and maintain a culture in which children and young people are safe and protected. **There is no member of the clergy in active ministry with a credible allegation of abuse.**

In February 2018, the diocese initiated the [Independent Reconciliation Compensation Program](#) (IRCP) designed to offer reparation, promote reconciliation and further healing to individuals who, in the past, were sexually abused by members of diocesan clergy. The program is nearing its conclusion and a full report will be provided to the people of the diocese.

In continuing the commitment to fully embrace the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the diocese is providing a list of clergy who have a credible allegation of abuse since 1950. All of these individuals have either been removed from ministry or are deceased. *Credible* is defined as: An allegation that, based upon the facts of the case, meets one or more of the following thresholds:

- a. Natural, reasonable, plausible and probable,
- b. Corroborated with other evidence or another source, or
- c. Acknowledged/admitted to by the accused.

In making this determination, consideration is given to the trustworthiness of the source.

Removed from Ministry is a canonical penalty in which the cleric can no longer function as a priest, present himself as a priest or wear clerics. Other canonical definitions used in the list can be found below. This list below is a result of thorough reviews by the [Diocesan Review Board](#).

Clergy with credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor

Priests permanently removed from ministry in accordance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, including those who died prior to the completion of their canonical process.

Accused		Date of ordination	Status
Robert J.	Birchmeyer	5/12/1973	Removed from Ministry
Paul A.	Brigandi	2/2/1954	Deceased
John W.	Broderick	10/7/1989	Removed from Ministry
Felix R.	Colosimo	5/1/1965	Deceased
Edmund J.	Durr	5/1/1965	Removed from Ministry
Charles H.	Eckermann	12/16/1956	Deceased
Francis J.	Furfaro	6/7/1941	Deceased
Thomas F.	Guyder	5/18/1940	Deceased
John F.	Harrold	9/8/1973	Dismissed from Clerical State
James C.	Hayes	5/1/1965	Removed from Ministry
Donald J.	Hebert	10/31/1981	Removed from Ministry
Leo J.	Heizman	5/17/1969	Deceased
David J.	Jutton	5/21/1966	Deceased
Thomas F.	Keating, III	5/21/1966	Deceased
Robert J.	Kloster	3/19/1965	Removed from Ministry
C. Vincent	Lane, Jr.	2/2/1961	Removed from Ministry
William A.	Lorenz	5/18/1963	Removed from Ministry
Edward C. "Ted"	Madore	5/12/1973	Laicized
George F.	Mattice, Jr.	5/16/1964	Removed from

			Ministry
Chester A.	Misercola	5/16/1964	Removed from Ministry
Robert A.	Ours	10/25/1980	Removed from Ministry
Joseph A.	Pace	6/4/1988	Laicized
David A.	Pichette	5/20/1967	Dismissed from Clerical state
Albert J.	Proud	5/18/1968	Removed from Ministry
James A.	Quinn	5/20/1967	Removed from Ministry
James F.	Quinn	5/24/1958	Deceased
H. Charles	Sewall	2/2/1960	Deceased
Paul J.	Slavetskias	5/29/1971	Deceased
John P.	Wagner	7/15/1962	Removed from Ministry
Jerome F.	Weber	5/19/1956	Removed from Ministry
Thomas J.	Zedar	5/1/1965	Deceased
John M.	Zeder	2/2/1954	Deceased
Priests with credible allegations who have died, voluntarily left the priesthood or who resigned prior to the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.			
Accused		Date of ordination	Status
Daniel W.	Casey	12/19/1975	Deceased
Donald J.	Crosby	5/18/1963	Deceased
Edward X.	Kieley	4/4/1925	Deceased
Steven J.	Litz, Jr.	3/11/1965	Deceased
Walter A.	Sinnott	7/15/1917	Deceased

Priests accused of sexual abuse of a minor after the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and were deceased at the time of the reporting of the allegation.

No claims were made while they were alive.

Although, in some of these cases, it is difficult to substantiate the claims, the Diocesan Review Board recommended out of an abundance of caution and transparency to include their names.

Those marked with an asterisk (*) have a single claim.

Accused		Date of ordination	Status
Thomas S.	Bayley*	6/11/1949	Deceased
Robert F.	Bogan*	5/24/1958	Deceased
Roger A.	Bowen*	5/30/1931	Deceased
John H.	Donovan*	1/1/1927	Deceased
Luke V.	Gallagher	6/12/1915	Deceased
Bernard A.	Garstka	5/6/1948	Deceased
Donald L.	Gorman	6/5/1954	Deceased
Ferdinand A.	Hattala*	5/26/1934	Deceased
Edgar M.	Holihan*	6/5/1943	Deceased
Edward P.	Humphrey*	6/15/1935	Deceased
William J.	Lynch*	5/26/1934	Deceased
John A.	McCarthy*	9/23/1933	Deceased
William J.	Morris*	6/21/1914	Deceased
John J. "Jack"	Morse*	2/2/1957	Deceased
Thomas E.	Neary, Jr.	6/5/1954	Deceased
Thomas M.	Powell*	5/12/1973	Deceased
Edward George	Quaid	6/10/1911	Deceased
Francis L.	Sammons*	5/15/1947	Deceased
Martin J.	Tracy	1/1/1927	Deceased
David J.	Walker*	2/2/1959	Deceased

Since the implementation of the Independent Reconciliation Compensation Program (IRCP) in February 2018, the diocese has been notified of additional allegations. Those claims have been reported to the appropriate District Attorney in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding and if found to be credible or if evidence of sexual abuse of a minor is determined, the above list will be updated.

Definitions:

Priests Permanently Removed from Ministry: No longer able to function as a priest, identify themselves as a priest or wear clerical attire.

Laicized: Voluntarily sought to be dispensed from clerical obligations and they have no affiliation with the diocese.

Dismissed: As a penalty they were released from the clerical state and have no affiliation with the diocese.