

Names of Priests Accused of Abusing Minors

The Diocese of Nashville, as part of its ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and pastoral care, has published the names of former priests who served in the diocese who have been accused of sexually abusing a minor based on a thorough review of diocesan files. The list also includes the names of priests who served in the diocese, but who appear on lists that have been released by other dioceses or religious orders.

Many of the men are deceased, and none are in ministry.

The names were released after consultation with the Presbyteral Council and the Diocesan Review Board which is made up almost entirely of lay people not employed by the diocese. Diocesan files on abuse cases were first shared with district attorneys over 20 years ago.

The names are those of priests against whom an allegation of abuse was made either while an active priest or following his death. Following the report, an investigation was commenced, after which a review of the facts and information obtained took place. Following this review, a recommendation was made to the bishop at the time and the bishop decided whether or not an individual priest should be dismissed from the priesthood of the Diocese of Nashville if in active ministry.

This list reflects a continuing effort to publish information about past abuse as additional information becomes available.

This process of reviewing and acting on additional information is consistent with the diocese's commitment to transparency, accountability, and pastoral outreach.

When the diocese learns that the name of a man who served in the Diocese of Nashville appears on a list released by another diocese or religious order, that information along with any other details available are published and the Diocesan Review Board is notified.

The victim assistance program is open to any victims of abuse by priests as a matter of pastoral outreach, no matter how long ago that abuse might have taken place.

Names and assignments in the Diocese of Nashville according to official records of the Diocese of Nashville are listed below. While diocesan priests have formal assignments, they often have duties in other parishes of the diocese so any of the men could have potentially worked in other parishes or locations.

- **Al Behm, a Glenmary religious brother, not a priest. Born 1938, joined the society 1960, left the society in 1993.** He had no parish assignments in Nashville and was employed directly by the Glenmary Home Mission Society at its research center in Nashville.
- **William C. Casey. Born Jan. 4, 1934; ordained May 2, 1969; incardinated in the Diocese of Knoxville Sept. 8, 1988; dismissed from the priesthood of the Diocese of Knoxville 2010; died Feb. 8, 2025.** His assignments included: Associate Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Chattanooga; Chattanooga Deanery Master of Ceremonies; Pastor of Notre Dame Church in Greeneville; East Tennessee Regional Director of Department of Rural Development; Kingsport Deanery Master of Ceremonies; Member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission; Director of Kingsport Deanery Catholic Youth Office; Director of Kingsport Deanery Diocesan Council of Catholic Women; Diocesan Director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference; Pastor of St. Dominic Church in Kingsport; Dean and Episcopal Vicar of the Kingsport Deanery; Director of Vocations for the Kingsport Deanery; Pastor of St. John Neumann Church in Knoxville.
- **Edward J. Cleary. Born April 18, 1914; ordained May 18, 1940; incardinated into the Diocese of Memphis in 1971; died Nov. 10, 1997.** His assignments included: Assistant Pastor of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville; Assistant Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Memphis; Assistant Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Nashville; Editor of the Tennessee Register; Professor at Father Ryan High School in Nashville; Administrator Pro Tem at Resurrection Church in Cleveland, Tennessee; Chaplain, U.S. Army Air Corps; Pastor, St. Paul Church in Whitehaven.
- **William F. Davis. Born Aug. 17, 1929; ordained May 26, 1956; incardinated in the Diocese of Memphis 1971; died Oct. 26, 2011.** His assignments included: Assistant Pastor of Christ the King Church in Nashville; Middle Tennessee Deanery Area Scout Chaplain; Administrator of the Church of the Assumption in Nashville; Director of the Catholic Youth Office of the Diocese of Nashville; Director of the Kentucky-Tennessee Region of the National Council of Catholic Youth; Pastor of the Church of the Assumption; Administrator of St. William Church in Millington; Assistant Pastor of St. Louis Church in Memphis and Teacher at Catholic High School for Boys in Memphis; Pastor of Notre Dame Church in Greeneville and its Rogersville mission; Pastor of St. Patrick Church in McEwen and St. Christopher Church in Dickson.
- **Ronald W. Dickman. Born July 13, 1944; ordained June 5, 1971; dismissed from the priesthood of the Diocese of Nashville 1991.** His assignments included: Director of Camp Marymount; Associate Pastor of St. Edward Church and full-time Professor and later Principal at Father Ryan High School; Associate Director of Vocations for the Nashville Deanery; Diocesan Director of Vocations; Associate Pastor of St. Henry Church in Nashville; Associate Pastor of St. Ignatius of Antioch Church; Catholic Charities of Tennessee; St. Mary Villa in Nashville.
- **Bill Early, a Glenmary religious brother, not a priest. Born 1936, joined the society 1958, left the society 1993; Deceased.** He had no parish assignments in Nashville and was employed directly by the Glenmary Home Mission Society at its research center in Nashville.

- **Walter M. Emala.** Born June 14, 1925; ordained May 31, 1952; incardinated in the Diocese of Memphis in 1971; died Feb. 20, 2008. His assignments included: Associate Pastor of St. Ann Church in Nashville; Associate Pastor of St. Anne Church in Memphis; West Tennessee Area Scout Chaplain; Associate Pastor of Holy Ghost Church in Knoxville; CYO Director for the East Tennessee Deanery; Pastor of St. Patrick Church in McEwen; Associate Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Memphis; Associate Pastor of St. Ann Church in Bartlett. He is named on lists published by the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and the Archdiocese of Baltimore.
- **Kenneth Gansmann, a Franciscan Priest.** Born Dec. 22, 1909; ordained June 24, 1935, for the Order of Friars Minor; died May 21, 1974. His assignments included: St. Vincent de Paul Church in Nashville.
- **Juan Carlos Garcia-Mendoza,** Born Aug. 26, 1992; ordained Aug. 15, 2020; removed from ministry Nov. 9, 2023; currently incarcerated. His assignments included: Associate Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church in Murfreesboro and Associate Pastor of St. Philip Church in Franklin.
- **Theophane Goett, a Franciscan Priest.** Born May 29, 1910; ordained June 24, 1940, for the Order of Friars Minor; died October 14, 1973. His assignments included: St. Vincent de Paul Church in Nashville.
- **Paul F. Haas.** Born Dec. 14, 1933; ordained May 23, 1959; dismissed from the priesthood of the Diocese of Nashville May 24, 1977; died June 7, 1979. His assignments included: Assistant Pastor of the Cathedral of the Incarnation; Middle Tennessee Deanery Area Scout Chaplain; Assistant Pastor of St. Ann Church in Nashville and Teacher at Father Ryan High School; Assistant Pastor of St. John Church in Memphis and Teacher at Memphis Catholic High School for Boys; Assistant Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Memphis. In addition to assignments in diocesan records, he is also known to have served at St. Jude Church and Notre Dame High School in Chattanooga and in the Diocese of Little Rock Arkansas, and the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky.
- **Adelbert "Del" Holmes, a Glenmary priest.** Born: 1925; joined Glenmary: 1959; removed from ministry 1991; died 2013. Adelbert Holmes was never assigned to Diocese of Nashville, but during his time as a priest for the Diocese of Owensboro assigned to parishes in Franklin and Scottsville, Kentucky, he was involved in organizing and establishing Holy Family Church in Lafayette, Tennessee. His assignments include the Dioceses of Charlotte, Little Rock, Richmond, Savannah, and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. His name appears on the Glenmary list of accused priests.
- **Frank Iazzetta.** Born June 5, 1942; ordained May 20, 1967, for the Diocese of Trenton; resigned the priesthood in 1993; died March 14, 2007. His assignments included: Assistant Pastor of St. Edward Church in Nashville; Assistant Spiritual Director of the Nashville Cursillo Group; Administrator of St. Paul Church in Tullahoma.

- **James A. Kemper.** Born Feb. 7, 1915; ordained March 21, 1942; incardinated in the Diocese of Memphis in 1971; died Nov. 23, 1993. His assignments included: Associate Pastor of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville; Associate Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Knoxville; Pastor of St. Patrick Church in McEwen; Pastor of St. Dominic Church in Columbia; Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Humboldt; Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church in Murfreesboro; Pastor of St. William Church in Shelbyville; Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Chattanooga and Chaplain of the Newman Club; Associate Pastor of Holy Rosary Church in Memphis; Pastor of St. James Church in Memphis. Worked also in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.
- **Alfred Longley.** Born Sept. 17, 1913; ordained 1939 for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis; removed from ministry 1968; died 1974. His assignments may have included: Christian Brothers College. Note that Longley appears on lists published by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Diocese of Duluth, and external sources have indicated this assignment at Christian Brothers College. However, neither the Christian Brothers nor the Diocese of Nashville have any record of Longley ever having served in West Tennessee.
- **Roger R. Lott.** A Benedictine Monk/Priest in Cullman Alabama; ordained in 1954; removed from duty and placed in a restricted setting by his order in 1996; died May 22, 2011. In the 1950s, Lott was in residence at the Cathedral serving in the Diocese of Nashville while pursuing a degree at Peabody College in Nashville.
- **Edward J. McKeown.** Born March 18, 1944; ordained Jan. 31, 1970; dismissed from the priesthood of the Diocese of Nashville March 1, 1989; Died Dec. 30, 2018. His assignments included: Associate Pastor of St. Edward Church in Nashville and part-time Professor at Father Ryan High School; Associate Pastor at Holy Rosary Church; Director and Program Director of the Nashville Deanery Catholic Youth Office; Associate Pastor at St. Joseph Church in Madison; Administrator of Blessed Sacrament Church in Harriman, St. Ann Church in Deer Lodge and St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Lenoir City; academic duties at Notre Dame High School in Chattanooga; Administrator of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in South Pittsburg, in residence at St. Augustine Church in Signal Mountain; Associate Moderator, then Director of the Chattanooga Deanery Catholic Youth Office; Associate Pastor at St. Augustine Church in Signal Mountain; Administrator of St. Bridget Church in Dayton; Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Harriman and its mission; Pastor of St. Thomas Church in Lenoir City and St. Ann Church in Deer Lodge; Co-Director of the Diocesan RENEW Program.
- **John Dennis Mitchell,** a Paulist Priest, born May 30, 1909, ordained Feb. 24, 1938, died Dec. 18, 1996. He was assigned at Good Shepherd Church in Winchester briefly in 1938 and later to give missions in the Nashville Diocese in 1942.
- **James W. Murphy Jr.** Born Sept. 12, 1922; ordained April 3, 1948; incardinated into the Diocese of Memphis 1971; died Oct. 11, 2016. His assignments included: Assistant Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Memphis; Assistant Pastor of St. Thomas Church in Memphis; Director of the Ladies of Charity for the West Tennessee Deanery; Blessed Sacrament Church in Harriman; St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Cookeville; Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Union City; Administrator of St. John Vianney Church in Gallatin; Pastor of St. Anthony Church in Memphis; Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Alcoa and attached mission; Pastor of St. James Church in Memphis.

- **James F.X. Pratt, A Jesuit priest. Born July 20, 1954; ordained June 14, 1986, for the Society of Jesus; recalled and removed from ministry by the Society of Jesus in 2003; died Sept. 5, 2019.** His assignments included: Campus Minister of Vanderbilt University; Diocesan Coordinator of Campus Ministries; Director of Permanent Deacon Formation. His name appears on the list released by his order.
- **Joseph L. Reilly. Born Dec. 16, 1928; ordained May 26, 1956; dismissed from the priesthood of the Diocese of Nashville 1965.** His assignments included: the Cathedral of the Incarnation; Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Chattanooga, St. Michael Church in Memphis and St. Henry Church in Nashville.
- **Franklin T. Richards. Born March 18, 1947; ordained Jan. 26, 1973; dismissed from the priesthood of the Diocese of Nashville March 1, 1989.** His assignments included: Associate Pastor of Christ the King Church; Assistant Vocations Director of the Diocese of Nashville; Director of Camp Marymount; Associate Pastor of St. Henry Church; Vocations Director of Nashville Deanery; Pastor of St. Patrick Church in Nashville; Principal of Knoxville Catholic High School; Pastor of the Seymour Catholic Community; Associate Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksville.
- **Peter R. Richardson, a Glenmary priest. Born June 16, 1958; ordained 1986 for the Glenmary Home Missioners; died March 26, 2014.** He had no parish assignments in Nashville and was employed directly by the Glenmary Home Mission Society at its research center in Nashville.
- **James A. Rudisill. Born May 16, 1926; ordained May 19, 1951; retired Feb. 10, 1995; died Feb. 8, 2008.** His assignments included: Assistant Pastor of St. Ann Church in Nashville; Assistant Pastor of Christ the King Church in Nashville; Assistant Pastor of Holy Name Church in Nashville; Chaplain of Scouting for Middle Tennessee; Chaplain of the Catholic Business Women's League in Nashville; Assistant Pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Memphis; Youth Director for the West Tennessee Deanery; Pastor of Holy Angels Church in Dyersburg; Pastor at St. Rose of Lima Church in Murfreesboro; Pastor at Notre Dame Church in Greeneville and its mission in Rogersville; Moderator of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women for the Chattanooga Deanery; Associate Pastor and Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Chattanooga; Chaplain Knights of Columbus Council 610 in Chattanooga; Pastor at St. Catherine Church in Columbia; Dean of the Southwest Deanery; Pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Hohenwald, Christ the Redeemer Church in Centerville and St. Cecilia Church in Waynesboro.
- **Paul W. St. Charles. Born June 23, 1939; ordained May 21, 1966; Incardinated into the Diocese of Memphis in 1971; dismissed from the priesthood of the Diocese of Memphis 2004; died Dec. 27, 2009.** His assignments included: Assistant Pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Knoxville; Assistant Pastor of St. John Church in Memphis; Chaplain for Scouting in the Memphis area; Moderator for the Ladies of Charity; Director of the Catholic Youth Office for the Memphis area and part-time professor of Catholic High School for Boys in Memphis; Administrator of St. Luke Church in Smyrna; Chaplain of the Mercy Convent in Nashville.

- **Anthony G. Stredny.** Born Oct. 15, 1928; ordained June 15, 1957; incardinated in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston in 1971; died 2018. His assignments included: Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Memphis; Associate Pastor of Holy Ghost Church in Knoxville; Associate Pastor of Holy Rosary Church in Memphis; Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Chattanooga; Associate Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Harriman; Associate Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Memphis.
- **Edward A. Walenga.** Born Nov. 2, 1926; ordained May 30, 1953; died Nov. 27, 1983. His assignments included: Assistant Pastor of Little Flower Church in Memphis; Assistant Pastor at Holy Ghost Church in Knoxville and Professor at Knoxville Catholic High School; Assistant Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Chattanooga and Chaplain to Newman Clubs; Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Humboldt; Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council in Jackson; Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Cookeville; Pastor of St. Patrick Church in McEwen and Dickson mission; Pastor of Notre Dame Church in Greeneville and St. Henry Mission in Rogersville; Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Springfield and the St. Michael Mission in Cedar Hill; Pastor of St. John Vianney Church in Gallatin.
- **Bill Wright.** Born: 1952; joined Glenmary: 1978; left society in 2006; deceased. A Glenmary religious brother, not a priest. He had no parish assignments in Nashville and was employed directly by the Glenmary Home Mission Society at its research center in Nashville.