

**Diocesan Priests with a Credible Allegation¹ of
Child Sexual Misconduct or Abuse² within the Diocese of Charleston**

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Ordination Date</i>	<i>Status</i>
Aiken	Roy	06/15/1946	Deceased - 07/04/2006
Bench, Jr.	John	05/09/1964	Deceased – 06/06/2009
Berberich	Peter	03/22/1947	Deceased – 03/20/1997
Burn	William	05/25/1956	Deceased – 05/29/2009
Condon	Eugene	05/26/1956	Deceased – 05/24/2014
Congro	Basil	06/10/1978	Placed on administrative leave 09/23/2002 and not allowed to function as a Catholic priest
DuMouchel	Raymond	05/10/1956	Deceased – 09/10/2006
Evatt	Thomas	12/18/1976	Deceased – 07/18/2003
Goodwin	Justin	06/10/1940	Deceased – 12/25/1995
Hopwood	Frederick	06/09/1951	Deceased – 04/30/17
Lee	Walter Pringle	05/19/1962	Deceased – April 1981
McLean	Frederick	05/18/1944	Deceased – 08/26/2010
Moynihan	George Frederick	12/07/1974	Deceased – 08/30/2004
Murphy	Daniel Francis	12/08/1945	Deceased – 07/21/1980
Murphy	Joseph	04/24/1943	Deceased – 08/24/1998
Owens-Howard	James Robert	06/12/1957	Deceased – 12/01/2015
Ryfiniski ³	Gerald	04/7/1990	Laicized – April 2007
Seitz	Paul	05/17/1958	Retired 06/01/2002 – under restrictions
Sheedy	Charles	05/16/1937	Deceased – 07/06/1989
Simonin	John	05/25/1947	Deceased – 07/15/2010
Vaverek	Hayden	07/02/1994	Laicized – May 2016
Williamson	Louis	5/26/1938	Deceased – 6/20/62

¹ According to the Diocese of Charleston’s *Policy Concerning Allegations of Sexual Misconduct or Abuse of a Minor by Church Personnel (2012)*, a credible allegation is defined as “an accusation which at least seems to be true (Canon 1717, Section 1), and/or offers reasonable grounds for being believed. A credible allegation is not manifestly false.”

² According to the Diocese of Charleston’s *Policy Concerning Allegations of Sexual Misconduct or Abuse of a Minor by Church Personnel (2012)*, “Sexual misconduct or abuse of a minor includes sexual molestation or sexual exploitation of a minor and other behavior by which an adult uses a minor as an object of sexual gratification. Consequently, any act or attempt to commit any act of incest, rape, or a sexual offense in any degree, sodomy, or any unnatural or perverted sexual practice, lewd or indecent acts or proposals, including indecent touching or fondling, exploitation, or permitting, encouraging, assisting, or aiding a minor to participate in such acts, constitutes sexual misconduct or abuse of a minor. Sexual misconduct or abuse of a minor includes conduct or interaction with a minor that is external and an objectively grave violation of the Sixth Commandment. Such conduct does not need to be an act of intercourse involving force, physical contact or a discernable, harmful outcome.”

³ Unlike others on the list, this case involved possession of child pornography.

**Religious Order or Visiting Priests with a Credible Allegation of
Child Sexual Misconduct or Abuse within the Diocese of Charleston**

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Ordination Date</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Status</i>
Castano - Mejia	Juan Carlos	01/25/1991	The Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Ipiales, Colombia, S.A.	Served prison sentence and was then deported
Collerett	Roger	06/19/1943	Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) - Canada	Unknown - believed to have returned to Canada
Johnson	Anthony William	1962	Visiting priest from the Diocese of Camden (NJ)	Deceased – 03/01/2012
Nyhan	James	1973	Visiting priest from the Archdiocese of Boston	Dismissed from ministry by the Archdiocese of Boston
Palatore Belfiore	Cesare	12/03/1967	Visiting priest from the Diocese of San José (Costa Rica)	Unknown – believed to have returned to Costa Rica
Sharples	James	05/30/1946	The Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Rock Hill, SC, USA	Deceased – 11/28/1974

Diocesan or Order Priests with a Credible Allegation of Child Sexual Misconduct or Abuse Outside the Diocese of Charleston⁴

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Ordination Date</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Status</i>
Kelly ⁵	Robert Joseph	07/13/1974	Visiting priest from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown	Unknown
Landwermeyer	Francis	1966	Society of Jesus Order (Jesuit)	Deceased – 09/05/2018
Mitchell	John	05/24/1938	Paulist Fathers Order	Deceased – 12/18/1996
Park	Augustine “Austin”	06/14/1955	Society of Jesus Order (Jesuit)	Deceased - 2013
Smith ⁶	Gabriel “Gabe”	12/12/1982	Diocesan priest	Retired from active ministry – 12/31/2018
Spangenberg	Robert	06/15/1974	Congregation of the Holy Spirit Order	Deceased – 12/23/2006
Tierney	Thomas	09/20/1924	Paulist Fathers Order	Deceased – 12/24/1972

⁴ Priests who served in the Diocese of Charleston, with no accusations within this Diocese, but who have credible allegations of sexual abuse of minors that occurred in another jurisdiction.

⁵Not Monsignor Robert Justin Kelly, who was a Diocesan priest

⁶ The allegation against Father Smith occurred eight years prior to his ordination and did not involve touching the minor. Father Smith voluntarily accepted administrative leave and removal of his ability to act as a priest pending final resolution of the matter. A subsequent decision by the Holy See in March 2004 concluded that Father Smith was not a risk to minors and required that he be returned to ministry.

**Priests who are Listed by Virtue of a Class Action Settlement
Payment as Determined by an Arbitrator**

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Ordination Date</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Status</i>
Eccleston	John	06/04/1955	Visiting priest from the Archdiocese of Washington, DC	Deceased – 02/09/2012
Hubacz	Leon Joseph	11/13/1943	Diocesan priest	Deceased – 06/28/1999
Kennedy	Ernest	05/26/1956	Diocesan priest	Deceased – 06/09/2017
McElroy ⁷	James	06/06/1920	Diocesan priest	Deceased – 07/05/1971
Plikunas	Anthony	06/10/1933	Diocesan priest	Deceased – 11/28/1973
Richardson	William “Bill”	12/12/1982	Diocesan priest	Left the Catholic priesthood in June 1983
Suggs	Frederick	06/09/1946	Diocesan priest	Deceased – 08/26/1998
Tawes	Creston J.	05/16/1959	Diocesan priest	Deceased – 08/04/1980

⁷ The abuse asserted in this claim occurred in the 1940’s.

Footnotes

The list of names is a result of allegations received by the Diocese and a review of priest personnel files, as well as relevant diocesan clergy or other files (including any files classified as confidential) to search for possible allegations of sexual misconduct or abuse of a minor. The period covered is 1950 to the present.

Priests who had credible claims against them in addition to class action claims are included on sections of the list other than the one entitled “Priests who are Listed by Virtue of a Class Action Settlement Payment as Determined by an Arbitrator.”

There are two priests not included on the list although settlement payments were made to claimants:

- (1) Two claims against a priest were made in connection with the 2007 class action settlement. The Diocese objected to the claims, but the arbitrator elected to award settlements over the Diocese’s objections. The independent Sexual Abuse Advisory Board reviewed the details of the claims and determined them not credible.
- (2) An allegation against another priest was received after the priest’s death. Because the priest was deceased and not a threat to children, the allegation was not initially taken to the independent Sexual Abuse Advisory Board. The Board members reviewed the details of the claim and deemed it not credible.

Also omitted from the list are:

- (1) Three priests who are the subject of litigation in currently pending civil lawsuits
- (2) One priest who is the subject of an ongoing criminal investigation

Of the six omitted priests, all are deceased except for one who is on administrative leave pending resolution of criminal charges.

This list will be updated as additional investigation and a review and determination of credibility are completed.