



Priests Who Have Served in the Diocese of Owensboro Against Whom A Substantiated Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor Has Been Made

For purposes of this list, an allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor by a priest is substantiated when there is probable cause for believing the claim is true. The following may be considered as evidence of probable cause: 1) admission of guilt by the accused; 2) accused does not contest the allegation; 3) guilty finding rendered by a court; 4) finding rendered by an investigative process shows cause for believing the allegation is true on an objective basis.

I. Priests ordained for the Diocese of Owensboro

This section contains the names of priests who were ordained for the Diocese of Owensboro against whom was made at least one substantiated allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor occurring within the Diocese of Owensboro.

- **Gerald Baker**. Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro in 1983. Three allegations deemed substantiated by the Diocesan Review Board. Removed from public ministry 2016.
- **Paul Greenwell**. Ordained in the Diocese of Louisville in 1928. Became a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro in 1937. Multiple allegations from the 1940's and 1950's deemed substantiated. Left the diocese in 1956. Deceased 1964.
- **Walter Hancock**. Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro in 1947. Multiple allegations deemed substantiated. Removed from public ministry 2002. Deceased 2012.
- **Gilbert Henninger**. Ordained a priest in the Diocese of Louisville in 1937. Became a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro in 1937. Multiple allegations received after his death but deemed substantiated. Deceased 1990.
- **John Meredith**. Ordained a priest in the Diocese of Owensboro in 1980. One allegation deemed substantiated by the Diocesan Review Board. Removed from public ministry 2013.

- **Louis Piskula**. Ordained a priest in the Diocese of Owensboro in 1975. Six allegations deemed substantiated. From 1994 onward he was in restricted ministry and removed from public ministry in 2002. In 2014 he was convicted of child sexual abuse and sentenced to prison. Deceased 2018.
- **John Speaks**. Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro in 1974. One allegation deemed substantiated. Removed from public ministry in 2002.
- **Carroll Wheatley**. Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro in 1975. Two allegations deemed substantiated. Removed from public ministry in 2011. Deceased 2013.
- **Henry Wieder**. Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro in 1989. One allegation of sexual abuse received in 2002 involving incident prior to ordination deemed substantiated. Left active ministry 2003.

II. Priests from another diocese or religious order

This section contains the names of priests either from another diocese or from a religious order who at one time served in the Diocese of Owensboro and against whom was made at least one substantiated allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor occurring within the Diocese.

- **Joseph Alexander**. Ordained a priest in 1973 in the Order of St. Benedict. Allegation is from years prior to ordination while at St. Maur's Seminary in South Union, Kentucky. Considered substantiated and removed from public ministry in 2002.
- **Joseph Pilger**. Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Covington in 1955. Served in the Diocese of Owensboro from 1963 – 1976. Thirteen allegations deemed substantiated. Convicted of child sexual abuse in 1993. Deceased 2003.
- **Louis Telegdy**. Ordained as a priest of the Precious Blood Order in 1942. Served in the Diocese of Owensboro 1972-1978. One allegation received in the Diocese of Owensboro after his death. Three allegations in the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa deemed substantiated. Deceased 1995.
- **Raymond Waldruff**. Ordained a priest as a Franciscan Third Order Regular (TOR) in 1953. Served in the Diocese of Owensboro 1967 - 1968. Five allegations received; at least two deemed substantiated. Dismissed from the TOR in 1983. Deceased 1985.

III. Allegations Which Occurred Outside the Diocese of Owensboro

This section contains the names of priests who were ordained for the Diocese of Owensboro, as well as priests from another diocese who at one time served within the Diocese of Owensboro,

and against whom was made at least one substantiated allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor occurring outside the Diocese of Owensboro.

- **Paul Haas**. Ordained a priest in the Diocese of Nashville in 1959. Served in the Diocese of Owensboro 1966-1977. Multiple allegations in Tennessee were deemed substantiated. No allegations received in the Diocese of Owensboro. Deceased 1979.
- ***Adelbert “Del” Holmes**. Ordained a priest of the Glenmary Home Missioners in 1963. Served in the Diocese of Owensboro 1977-1988. One allegation in the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia. No allegations received in the Diocese of Owensboro. Deceased 2013.
- **William Odom-Green**. Ordained a priest in the Diocese of Owensboro in 1991. One allegation in the Diocese of Oakland, California in 1999. Convicted and sentenced to prison. No allegations received in the Diocese of Owensboro. Removed from public ministry 1999.

**Added April 26, 2019.*

More information about the priests listed here is available on the Diocese of Owensboro website at www.owensborodiocese.org/accountability. In a spirit of ongoing transparency, as new information is received in the future, it will also be added to the website at that address.

To report suspected abuse, call the **Kentucky Child Protection Hot Line: 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331 (Toll Free)** or contact your local Commonwealth Attorney.

To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church, please call:

Louanne Payne
Pastoral Assistance Coordinator
270-852-8380 (English)

Para reportar abusos a la diócesis, ya sean actuales o anteriores, por parte de cualquier persona que actúa en nombre de la Iglesia, favor de llamar al:

Nuria Elizondo
Coordinador de Asistencia Pastoral
270-880-8360 (Español)