

List of Clergy with Credible Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors in the Diocese of Fort Worth

The Diocese of Fort Worth is committed to eradicating the evil of sexual abuse of minors. The protection of our children is a moral obligation and is of paramount importance to the Diocese of Fort Worth. When it comes to the protection of children, complacency is unacceptable. The Diocese of Fort Worth has taken and will continue to take affirmative steps to ensure the safety of our children.

In that regard, publicly identifying clergy and religious brothers and sisters who are the subjects of credible allegations of sexual abuse against a minor serves an important role in eradicating the evil of sexual abuse and in helping the Diocese to identify and assist those who have suffered from abuse. In 2005, the Diocese of Fort Worth first publicly identified priests who were the subjects of credible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor. In 2007, the Diocese of Fort Worth became the first diocese in Texas to include a list of credibly accused priests on its website. The disclosure of this list is made as part of the Diocese of Fort Worth's ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of our children and its commitment to transparency.

The following is the list of bishops, priests, deacons, and religious brothers and sisters who have served in the Diocese of Fort Worth since its establishment in 1969 whom the Diocese of Fort Worth has reason to believe engaged in the sexual abuse of a minor within this diocese. None of the individuals identified on this list are in active ministry. The individuals identified on this list who were ordained for the Diocese of Fort Worth or who were incardinated into the Diocese of Fort Worth will never return to active ministry. The Bishop of Fort Worth has the authority to remove from ministry those who have been ordained or incardinated into the Diocese of Fort Worth. The authority to remove from ministry those who are members of religious orders or who were ordained or incardinated into other dioceses belongs to the superiors of their religious orders or the bishops of their dioceses.

When an allegation of the sexual abuse of a minor is received by the Diocese of Fort Worth, it is immediately reported to the civil authorities (e.g., law enforcement and Child Protective Services). Separate from any investigation by the civil authorities, the diocese then takes steps to determine whether the alleged incident is *plausible* (i.e., confirm whether the accused and accuser were in fact at the parish/school at the alleged time, etc.). If the allegation is found to be plausible, then the accused is immediately removed from ministry while the diocese conducts a further investigation in order to determine whether there is reason to believe that the sexual abuse of a minor occurred.

The determination that the Diocese of Fort Worth has reason to believe that the sexual abuse of a minor has occurred is made by the bishop, in consultation with the Diocesan Conduct Review Board. The Conduct Review Board is a confidential consultative body composed mainly of lay members with various backgrounds and areas of expertise well suited to assist the bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and in his determination of a cleric's suitability for ministry. This determination is not a finding that the alleged abuse actually occurred. Rather, it is a finding that there is reason to believe that the alleged abuse occurred. The standard that the Diocese of Fort Worth uses in making

this determination is a lesser standard than that required by our civil or criminal legal systems. As such, the inclusion of an individual on this list is not a final determination under civil or criminal laws that abuse actually occurred. Rather, it is a finding used to remove the accused from ministry in this diocese permanently, unless the accused is subsequently cleared by the facts.

The Diocese of Fort Worth is fully committed to complying with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to fulfilling its moral obligation to protect our children. You can learn about the ways the Diocese of Fort Worth is helping to protect our children by visiting the Safe Environment page on the diocesan website (<https://fwdioc.org/safe-environment>).

As always, the Diocese of Fort Worth invites anyone who has information about abuse or who has been abused by any priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of the Church to contact us so that the Church can reach out to you or any victims. Please contact the Office of Victim Assistance at 817-945-9345; the Director of Safe Environment at 817-945-9334; or the Chancellor and Moderator of the Curia, Monsignor E. James Hart, at 817-945-9315. If a crime has been committed, we urge you to immediately contact the local law enforcement officials before contacting the diocese.

Priests Incardinated into the Diocese of Fort Worth

James Fitzpatrick

Ordained in 1954 for the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth.

Deceased August 6, 1973.

Assignments for Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Wichita Falls): 1969-1973.**

James Hanlon

Ordained in 1981 for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Deceased February 17, 1990.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **St. Michael's Catholic Church (Bedford): 1981-1983.**
- **Holy Family Catholic Church (Fort Worth): 1983-1986.**
- **St. John the Apostle Catholic Church (N. Richland Hills): 1986-1987.**
- **St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church (Arlington): 1987-1988.**
- **St. Patrick Cathedral (Fort Worth): 1988-1989.**
- **St. Rita's Catholic Church (Ranger); St. John's Catholic Church (Strawn); St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church (Eastland); Holy Rosary Catholic Church (Cisco): 1989.**

William Hoover

Ordained in 1955 for the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth.

Deceased October 19, 1996.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church (Ft. Worth): 1969-77.**
- **Holy Name Catholic Church (Ft. Worth): 1977-1987.**
- **St. Patrick's Cathedral (Ft. Worth): 1987-1995.**

Philip Magaldi

Ordained for Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island in 1960.

Deceased August 8, 2008.

He was incardinated into the Diocese of Fort Worth in 1995. He retired in 1999. He was formally removed from ministry in August, 2006.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **St. Mary's Catholic Church (Henrietta); St. William's Catholic Church (Montague); St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Nocona); St. Jerome's Catholic Church (Bowie): 1990-1992.**
- **St. John the Apostle Catholic Church (N. Richland Hills): 1993-1999.**

John Ellis Mitchell

Ordained for the Diocese of Dallas in 1948.

He was incardinated into the Diocese of Fort Worth in 1976. He retired in 1990 and died in 1996.

Assignments for the Diocese of Dallas/Dallas-Ft. Worth

- **Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Wichita Falls): 1948-1949.**
- **St. Mary Catholic Church (Henrietta): 1949-1952.**
- **Attended Catholic University: 1952-1953.**
- **Assignments within the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth: 1953-1960.**
- **Missions outside of the United States including in Bolivia and Peru: 1960-1970.**
- **Attended St. Louis University: 1970-1972.**
- **St. Rita Catholic Church (Ranger): 1972-1975.**

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church (Wichita Falls): 1975-1984.**
- **Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (Denton): 1984-1986.**
- **St. Jude Catholic Church (Mansfield): 1986-1988.**

- **Medical leave and subsequently no assignment within the Diocese: 1988-1990.**

Gilbert Pansza

Ordained for the Diocese of Fort Worth in 2000.

He was removed from active ministry on December 14, 2006, after discovery in the files of a past admission of sexual misconduct with a minor dating from the 1970's.

Deceased December 17, 2020.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **St. John the Apostle Catholic Church (N. Richland Hills): 2000-2002.**
- **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church (Decatur); St. John the Baptizer Catholic Church (Bridgeport); St. Mary's Catholic Church (Jacksboro): 2002-2006.**
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church (Wichita Falls): 2006.**

James Reilly

Ordained for the Diocese of Dallas in 1945. He retired in 1987, moved to Philadelphia.

Deceased May 2, 1999.

Assignment for Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church (Arlington): 1969-1987.**

Rudolph Renteria

Ordained in 1979 for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

He was removed from active ministry on June 29, 2002. On December 10, 2010 Pope Benedict XVI decreed that Reverend Rudolf J. Renteria is dismissed *ex officio et pro bono Ecclesiae* from the clerical state, and is released from all obligations of the Sacred Priesthood.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **St. Matthew's Catholic Church (Arlington): 1979-1981.**
- **Sacred Heart (Wichita Falls): 1981-1982.**
- **Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church (Vernon); St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Crowell); St. Mary's Catholic Church (Quanah): 1982-1985.**
- **St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church (Lewisville): 1985-1987.**
- **Holy Family Catholic Church (Fort Worth): 1987-1989.**
- **Hospital Ministry in Fort Worth. Hospital Chaplain Ministry at St. Paul's Hospital (Dallas): 1989-2002.**

Gerald Scholl

Ordained in 1962 for the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth.

Deceased January 6, 2002.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **University of Denver graduate school (Denver, Colo.): 1969-1970.**
- **University of Texas at Arlington campus minister (Arlington): 1970- 1982.**
- **College of Santa Fe (Santa Fe, New Mexico): 1982- 1985.**
- **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church (Keller): 1985-1995.**
- **Tribunal (Fort Worth): 1995 to 2002.**

Priest not Incardinated into the Diocese of Fort Worth

Thomas Teczar

Ordained in 1967 for the Diocese of Worcester, Massachusetts.

Deceased.

In September 2011 Pope Benedict XVI decreed that Reverend Thomas H. Teczar is dismissed *ex officio et pro bono Ecclesiae* from the clerical state, and is released from all obligations of the Sacred Priesthood. He has been convicted of sexual abuse of a minor and is incarcerated in the State of Texas.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **St. Michael's Catholic Church (Bedford): 1988-1990.**
- **St. Rita's Catholic Church (Ranger); Holy Rosary (Cisco); St. John's Catholic Church (Strawn); St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church (Eastland): 1990-1993.**

Religious Order Priests

Henry Herrera, CMF

Ordained for the Claretian Missionaries of the United States, Western Province.

Deceased November 29, 1996.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church (Fort Worth), Pastor: 1975-1979.**
- **All Saints Catholic Church (Fort Worth) – In residence: 1975-1979.**
- **Blue Mound Catholic Community (Fort Worth), Pastor: 1975-1978.**

John Howlett, SAC

Ordained in Ireland for the Pallotine Fathers.

Deceased January 3, 2019.

Removed from ministry by the Pallotine Fathers. After being removed from ministry, he lived with the Pallotine Community in Dublin, Ireland with restrictions on his contact with individuals outside of the Pallotine Community until his death.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **St. Mary's Catholic Church (Graham); St. Theresa's Catholic Church (Olney): 1977-1984.**
- **St. Brendan's Catholic Church (Stephenville); St. Mary's Catholic Church (Dublin, Texas); Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Comanche); Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church (De Leon): 1984-1985.**

Bede Mitchel, OSB

Benedictine Order based in Subiaco, Arkansas.

Deceased March 1983.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **Sacred Heart Parish (Muenster): 1969-1973.**
- **St. Peter Parish (Lindsay): 1973-1975.**

Joseph Tu Nguyen

Ordained in Vietnam for Dominican Fathers.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **St. Matthew's Catholic Church (Arlington): 1975-1977.**
- **St. Michael's Catholic Church (Bedford): 1979-1980.**
- **St. Matthew's Catholic Church (Arlington): 1980-1993.**

William Paiz, CMF

Ordained for the Claretian Missionaries of the United States, Western Province.

The accusation of sexual abuse of a minor by Fr. Paiz has been found to be credible.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **All Saints Catholic Church (Fort Worth): 1979-1983.**
- **Nolan Catholic High School (Fort Worth): 1983-1986.**

- **St. George Catholic Church (Fort Worth) – In residence: 1983-1986.**

Francis A. Zimmerer

Benedictine Order based in Subiaco, Arkansas.

Deceased January 1983.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **Administrator of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Decatur) 1975-1981.**

Deacons

Russell William Detwiler

Ordained in 1995 for Diocese Fort Worth. Accepted for ministry in the Diocese of Fort Worth in 1995.

Retired from active ministry in 2015. Suspended from ministry in 2017. In 2018, plead guilty to indecency with a child and aggravated sexual assault of a minor and has been sentenced to state prison.

Deceased January 31, 2021.

Assignments for Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **Prison Ministry (Wichita Falls); Volunteered at Allred: 1995-2001; Chaplain at Allred: 2011-2017.**
- **Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Wichita Falls): 1995-2001, 2010-2015.**
- **Out of the Diocese (Saginaw Michigan): 2001-2006.**
- **Assigned to 4 parishes April 2006 – left December 2008; St. William Catholic Church (Montague); St. Mary Catholic Church (Henrietta); St. Jerome Catholic Church (Bowie); St. Joseph Catholic Church (Nocona).**

Religious Brothers

Tony Pistone, SM

Society of Mary notified the Diocese of Fort Worth that Tony Pistone was removed from ministry in 2005.

Deceased December 6, 2017.

Assignments for the Diocese of Fort Worth:

- **Nolan Catholic High School: 1980-1987.**

Original List Posted 2007

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