

Diocese Publishes Names of Priests Accused of Abusing Minors



January 31, 2019

Amarillo—The Diocese of Amarillo, as part of its ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability and pastoral care, is publishing the names of 30 former priests who served in the diocese who have been accused of sexually abusing a minor.

“The Diocese of Amarillo seeks to express regret and apologizes for the failing and sins that have hurt the Church so deeply, especially in our most vulnerable members,” said Bishop Patrick J. Zurek. “The Diocese especially asks forgiveness for the failings of those who have held positions of leadership in the Church.”

Of the 30, 22 are known or believed to be deceased and five are or were in prison, and one is awaiting criminal trial. None are in active ministry.

“In conformance with my commitment to transparency in the Church, for the healing, spiritual good, and assistance of victims of sexual abuse of minors by clergy, the Diocese is publishing the names of Roman Catholic clergy against whom credible allegations have been made within the Diocese between January 1, 1950 and December 31, 2018,” said Bishop Zurek.

Important Information about the geographical boundaries of the Diocese before and after October 16, 1961

The Diocese of Amarillo was established on August 26, 1926. At the time of its establishment, the Diocese encompassed approximately 73,000 square miles.

Prior to October 16, 1961, the geographical boundaries of the Diocese included 37,433 square miles of territory that is now part of the Diocese of San Angelo, and prior to June 17, 1983, included 23,382 square miles of territory that is now part of the Diocese of Lubbock. After the divisions of the Diocese, now 25,800 square miles constitute the Diocese of Amarillo; most members of the clergy remained in their new Dioceses.

Identification of Members of the Clergy

Members of clergy who appear on this list include: ordained priests of the Diocese, priests belonging to religious orders (e.g., Franciscans, Vincentians, Oblates, Pallottines and others) that served in the Diocese, and extern priests. An extern priest is defined as a priest who was incardinated in another diocese, but was serving in the Diocese of Amarillo with faculties granted by the Bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo.

Definition of Credible Allegation

A “credible allegation” is one that the Bishop determines there is reason to believe is true after review of reasonably available, relevant information and after receiving the recommendation of the Diocesan Review Board. The Diocesan Review Board is constituted principally by lay professionals. *Beginning in 2002, claims of sexual abuse submitted directly to the Diocese were reviewed by the Charter Review Board mandated by the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. The recommendations of the Review Board were presented to the Bishop with recommendations for a determination. Prior to 2002, allegations were reviewed by a committee appointed by the Bishop or the Bishop’s staff.*

A determination that an allegation against a member of the clergy is credible and should be published, is not equivalent to a finding by a judge or jury that the cleric is liable for sexual abuse of a minor under civil law or has committed criminal sexual abuse of a minor under the Texas Penal Code.

A determination that an allegation against a member of the clergy is credible is a finding by the Bishop that the conduct described in a claim constitutes a violation of the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Here are the names of clergy with credible accusation of sexual abuse of minors while serving in the Diocese of Amarillo./Nombres de clérigos con acusaciones creíbles de abuso sexual de menores mientras prestaban servicios en la Diócesis de Amarillo.

Credible accusations occurred in the Diocese of Amarillo/Acusaciones creíbles ocurridas en la Diócesis de Amarillo

CLAUDE BARTON

Date Of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 1/16/1908

Ordination/Ordenación:

Deceased/Falleció: 11/9/79

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 11/1958-9/1960

St. Mary’s, Odessa

St. John’s, Hermleigh

St. Laurence, Amarillo

St. Francis Convent, Amarillo

ORVILLE RAYMOND BLUM

Date Of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 7/8/1937

Ordained/Ordenación: Amarillo Diocese 5/26/1962

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 6/1962-6/2002

Alamo Catholic High School, Amarillo

St. Laurence, Amarillo

St. John the Evangelist, Borger

St. Joseph, Stratford

Blessed Sacrament, Amarillo

St. Joseph's, Amarillo

St. Anthony's, Hereford

THOMAS HUBERT (PATRICK) BURKE

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 7/20/1930, Ireland

Ordained/Ordenación: 6/15/1957 for the Diocese of Amarillo—Para la Diócesis de Amarillo

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 10/1957-2/24/1975

Sacred Heart, Amarillo

St. Elizabeth, Lubbock

Our Mother of Mercy, Wellington

St. Patrick's, Shamrock

St. Mary's, Spur

TERRANCE BURKE

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 4/26/1940, Ireland

Ordained/Ordenación: 8/4/1975 Diocese of Amarillo

Deceased/Falleció: @2016

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 10/1975-7/2002

St. Mary's, Amarillo

St. Joseph, Stratford

Christ the King, Lubbock

Holy Angels, Childress

Immaculate Conception, Muleshoe

Church of the Holy Spirit, Tulia

Holy Name of Jesus, Happy

Catholic Student Center, Canyon

St. Mary's, Clarendon

Morning Star Hostel/Mark Schupp Center

ANTHONY CATALINA

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 1902

Ordained/Ordenación: 1929 Vincentians {location unknown}

Deceased/Falleció: 11/30/1968

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 10/1958-7/1968

Sacred Heart, Littlefield

Sacred Heart, Petersburg
Sacred Heart, Canadian

LAURENCE (LORCAN) CONNAUGHTON

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 11/23/1920

Ordained/Ordenación: 6/17/1951 Amarillo Diocese

Excardinated: 2/1958

Deceased/Falleció: Probably/Problamente

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 10/1951-2/1958

St. Francis of Assisi, Amarillo

Sacred Heart Cathedral/St. Mary's, Amarillo

St. Mary's/Immaculate Heart of Mary, Groom

St. Anthony of Padua, Dalhart

JOHN W. COPPINGER

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento:

Ordination/Ordenación: 1972 Archdiocese of New York

Served in the Diocese of Amarillo/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 6/18/1972-8/16/1975

St. Anthony's, Hereford

JAMES LESLIE (LAURENCE) DALY

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 10/2/1902

Ordained/Ordenación: 5/4/1930, Amarillo Diocese

Deceased/Falleció: 6/26/1988

Served in the Diocese of Amarillo/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 9/1930– 1/1944 and 7/1963-8/1965

St. Ann's, Canyon

Price Memorial College, Amarillo

St. Mary's, Clarendon

Immaculate Conception, Vega

Holy Angels, Childress

St Patrick's, Shamrock

Our Mother of Mercy Wellington

St. John the Evangelist, Borger

St. Anthony of Padua, Dalhart

Christ the King, Lubbock

PETER PAUL DiBENEDETTO

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 9/14/1940

Ordained/Ordenación: Amarillo, Texas 6/11/1969

Deceased/Falleció: 11/28/1995

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 6/1969-11/1995

St. Hyacinth, Amarillo
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Spearman
Immaculate Conception, Vega
Immaculate Conception, Perryton
Alamo Catholic High School, Amarillo

****EDWARD R. GRAFF**

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 1/30/1929

Ordained/Ordenación: 5/19/1955, Allentown, Pennsylvania

Deceased/Falleció: 11/2002

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 9/1992 – 9/2002

Church of the Holy Spirit, Tulia

Our Lady of Loreto, Silverton

San Juan Diego, Quitaque

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Turkey

**** Abuse occurred in Diocese of Allentown**

*****El abuso ocurrió en la diócesis de Allentown.***

****Abuse occurred in Diocese of Amarillo**

**** *El abuso ocurrió en la diócesis de Amarillo.***

JAMES C. GURZYNSKI

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 4/28/1937

Ordained/Ordenación: 5/25/1963 in Toledo, Ohio for the Diocese of Amarillo

Deceased: Falleció: 4/8/2013

Served in the Diocese of Amarillo/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 9/1963- 12/2005

Our Lady of Grace, Lubbock

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Spearman

Sacred Heart, Abernathy

Sacred Heart, White Deer

St. Ann's, Canyon

ROSENDO HERRERA-HERNANDEZ

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 3/1/1965

Ordained/Ordenación: 7/13/1996

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 8/1996– 2/2000

St. Laurence, Amarillo

St. Vincent de Paul, Pampa

St. Anthony of Padua, Dalhart

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Amarillo

BSA Hospital

ROBERT PATRICK HOFFMAN

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 8/29/1940

Ordained/Ordenación: 5/25, 1968, Amarillo Diocese

Served in the Lubbock Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Lubbock 7/1983-7/1987

Deceased/Falleció: 3/20/2005

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 6/1968-7/1983, 7/1987-12/1/2000

St. Margaret Mary, Lamesa

St. Pius X, O'Donnell

Immaculate Conception, Perryton

St. Laurence, Amarillo

DAVID HOLLEY

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: @1929

Ordination/Ordenación: 1958 Order of St. Benedict Abby, Bennet Lake, Wisconsin

Incardinated into the Diocese of Worcester. Wisconsin

Deceased/Falleció: 2008

Served in the Diocese of Amarillo/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 6/1984-12/1984

St. Joseph's, Amarillo

In 1993 sentenced to 275 years in prison, Alamogordo, N.M. *En 1993 fue sentenciado a 275 años en prision, Alamogordo, N.M.*

RODNEY CHARLES HOWELL

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 8/15/1932

Ordained/Ordenación: 7/6/1965

Deceased/Falleció: 1/10/1993

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 9/1965-1980

Sacred Heart, Littlefield

St. Phillip's, Shallowater

St. Michael's, Ralls

St. Pius, O'Donnell

JOHN A. HOWLETT

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento:

Ordained/Ordenación: 1947 Pallotines Dublin

{Pallotines Dallas Province}

Deceased/Falleció:

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 1/1961-7/1966, 2/1971-7/1977

St. Joseph's, Lubbock

St. Michael's, Ralls

St. Patrick's, Lubbock

St. Vincent Pallotti, Lubbock

St. Anthony's, Brownfield

JAMES (JIM) D. HUTZLER

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 2/26/1944

Ordained/Ordenación: 7/25/1980

Served in the Diocese of Amarillo/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 1973-9/1980 (teacher), 9/1980-7/2002

Alamo Catholic High School, Amarillo

Our Lady of Grace, Lubbock

St. Joseph, Amarillo

Our Mother of Mercy, Wellington

St. Anthony of Padua, Dalhart

St. Joseph, Stratford

Sacred Heart, Canadian

St. Anthony's Hospital, Amarillo

St. Mary's, Umbarger

St. Theresa, Panhandle

Sacred Heart, White Deer

RICHARD WALLACE LANG

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento:

Ordination/Ordenación: 6/5/1938, Vincentian Fathers of Western Province, St. Louis, MO, (Vincentian, Southern Province, Dallas, Texas)

Deceased/Falleció: 5/30/1974

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 12/1941-3/1945, 8/1957-7/1968

Holy Souls, Pampa

Sacred Heart, Canadian

JOSEPH RAYMOND LOPEZ

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 8/31/1939

Ordination/Ordenación: 12/18/1965 for the Diocese of Amarillo

Left Ministry in 1970, was voluntarily Laicized 7/1973

Deceased/Falleció: 2005

Served in the Diocese of Amarillo/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 8/1966-9/1970

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Amarillo

GERALD V. LYNCH

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 1/21/1916

Ordained/Ordenación: 12/21/1947

Cistercian Order, Brighton Mass

Incardinated into the Diocese of Amarillo: 6/8/1954

Deceased/Falleció: 11/25/1979

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 1951-1976

St. Anthony of Padua, Dalhart

St. Lucian's/Price Memorial College, Amarillo
Holy Angels, Childress
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Spearman (Perryton)
Sacred Heart, White Deer.
Church of the Holy Spirit, Tulia

CLETUS BERNARD MCGORRY

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 11/14/1923

Ordination/Ordenación: 6/1952 Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, Graymoor, New York

Deceased/Falleció: 2/2/1992

Served in the Diocese of Amarillo/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 9/13/1955-1/10/1988

St. Anthony's, Hereford

St. Ann's, Bovina

AIDEN MAGUIRE

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento:

Ordained/Ordenación: {SAC – Society of the Catholic Apostolate Pallotines, Ireland}

Deceased/Falleció: Unknown – Returned to Ireland in 1981

Served in the Diocese of Amarillo/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 1/1961- 12/1965, 10/1969-8/1981

St. Elizabeth, Lubbock

St. Anthony's, Brownfield

St. William, Denver City

GUILLERMO MORALES-MARTINEZ

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 4/6/1958

Ordained/Ordenación: 7/16/1988

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 8/1988-11/2007

St. John the Evangelist, Borger

Christ the King, Sunray

Immaculate Conception, Dimmitt

Sacred Heart, Canadian

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Spearman

St. Ann's, Stinnett

MICHAEL DERMOT O'BRIEN

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 10/8/1941

Ordained/Ordenación: 6/13/1965

Deceased/Falleció: 2/11/1978

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 9/1965-2/1978

St. Laurence, Amarillo

St. Mary's, Amarillo

Holy Angels, Childress

St. Ann's, Bovina

ALFREDO PRADO

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: @1930

Ordination/Ordenación: Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, San Antonio, Texas

Fled to Costa Rica

Not assigned to the Diocese of Amarillo

No estuvo asignado a la Diócesis de Amarillo

Allegedly event occurred when conducting a Mission in the Amarillo Diocese.

Al parecer, el suceso se produjo al llevar a cabo una Misión en la Diócesis de Amarillo.

****JOHN ANTHONY SALAZAR-JIMENEZ**

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 8/20/1955

Ordained/Ordenación: 10/24/1984, Calasanzian Piarist Fathers, Los Angeles

Served in the Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 7/1991-7/2002

Church of the Holy Spirit, Tulia

San Jose, Hereford

***Accusations occurred in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles**

****Acusaciones ocurridas en la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles.***

****Accusation occurred in Diocese of Amarillo**

***** Acusación ocurrió en la diócesis de Amarillo.***

J. MELTON SILVA

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento:

Ordination/Ordenación:

Deceased/Falleció: 1999

Served in the Diocese of Amarillo/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 9/1975-9/1980

Immaculate Conception, Perryton

Holy Cross, Post

St. Mary's, Spur

JOHN SULLIVAN

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: January 3, 1917

Ordained/Ordenación: June 30, 1942 Diocese of Manchester, N.H.

Deceased/Falleció: 1984

Served in the Diocese of Amarillo: Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 1/1961-4/1963

St. Joseph, Amarillo

PETER MUKEKHE WAFULA

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 10/20/1979

Ordination/Ordenación: 12/9/2017 Crusaders of the

Holy Spirit, Parana, Argentina

Removed from Ministry July 10, 2018

Served in the Diocese of Amarillo/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: February - July 2018

San Jose, Hereford

St. Teresa of Jesus, Friona

St. Ann's, Bovina

Indicted by the Parmer County Grand Jury in October 2018, awaiting trial.

Acusado por el Gran Jurado del Condado de Parmer en octubre de 2018, en espera de juicio.

BRUCE EDWARD (MICHAEL) WOOD

Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento: 4/5/1937

Ordained/Ordenación: 6/7/1984 Amarillo, Texas

Deceased/Falleció: 6/22/2017

Served in Amarillo Diocese/Sirvió en la Diócesis de Amarillo: 7/1984 – 6/1/1988

St. Thomas the Apostle, Amarillo

St. Joseph, Stratford

Alamo Catholic High School, Amarillo

St. Joseph, Amarillo

Since 2002, the Diocese has implemented a comprehensive Safe Environment Program to ensure safety of the children of the Diocese. Any person who works with children as clergy, employee or volunteer must have a criminal background check and participate in Safe Environment Training. In addition to the Adult Training, all children undergo Safe Environment Training every year.

Every effort has been made by the Bishop, his staff, and the independent Amarillo Diocesan Charter Review Board, to ensure that the list is accurate and those thereupon belong on the list.

Any person with knowledge of a member of a diocesan clergy whose name is not on the list and who allegedly committed sexual abuse of a minor within the Diocese should report such allegations to the Police Department where the event occurred, and if the victim is still a minor, to Child Protective Services. Additionally, such person should also report the allegations to Sharyn Delgado, Victim's Assistance Coordinator, by calling 806-671-4830. The Diocese will investigate the allegations and present the evidence to the Diocesan Review Board for its opinion whether the allegations constitute a credible accusation. The Review Board will make its recommendation to the Bishop, who will make the final determination and if the allegation is found to be credible, their name will be added to the list.