THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD–CAPE GIRARDEAU

Priests with allegations of sexual abuse of a minor

Diocesan Priests

John Brath

Ordained to the priesthood on May 25, 1968, in the Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, IL, by The Most Rev. Romeo Blanchette, for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Died in 2014.
The full press release may be found here.

Gary Carr

Ordained to the priesthood Nov. 26, 1982, by The Most Rev. Bernard Law for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, he was placed on Administrative Leave on Dec. 23, 2008. **Read the full press releases: April 27, 2020, and July 20, 2020.**

Leonard Chambers

Ordained April 3, 1965, Sacred Heart Parish, Poplar Bluff, MO, by The Most Rev. Ignatius J. Strecker, DD, STD, for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Laicized in Dec. 9, 2005, returned to the lay state.

Pastoral Appointments:
(Motor Missions) Sacred Heart Parish, Poplar Bluff, MO
Assistant Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Pierce City, MO
Temp. Assistant, Sacred Heart Parish, Webb City, MO
Assistant Pastor, St. Peter the Apostle, Joplin, MO; Instructor of religion at McAuley High School, Joplin, MO
Associate Pastor, St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, MO
Associate Pastor, Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield, MO
Parochial Administrator, St. Joseph the Worker, Ozark, MO
Instructor of Christian Doctrine, then-St. Agnes Regional High School, Springfield, MO
Parochial Administrator, St. Joseph Parish, Advance, MO, and St. Anthony Parish, Glennon, MO
Pastor, St. Susanne Parish, Mount Vernon, and Parochial Administrator St. Patrick Mission, Greenfield, MO
Pastor, St. Francis de Sales Parish, Lebanon, MO
Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Springfield, MO
Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Salem, Christ the King Mission, and St. Jude Chapel, Montauk (summer only)
Interim Parochial Administrator, St. Mary Parish, Pierce City, MO
Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Pierce City, MO
Pastor, Our Lady of the Cove Parish, Kimberling City, MO
Pastor, Holy Family Parish, Shell Knob, MO
Relieved of Shell Knob, MO; continued Kimberling City, MO
Pastor, St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Joplin, MO
July 31, 1998 – Priestly faculties revoked
Dec. 9, 2015 – Laicized, returned to lay state

Walter Craig

Ordained June 10, 1923, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis, MO, by The Most Rev. John Joseph Glennon, DD, for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Died in 1971.

Pastoral Appointments:

Assistant Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, St. Louis, MO
Pastor, St. Ambrose Parish, Chaffee, MO
Pastor, St. Matthew Parish, St. Louis, MO
Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, New Madrid, MO
Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Jackson, MO
Pastor, St. Lawrence Parish, New Hamburg, MO
Dec. 16, 1971 – Deceased

Eugene Deragowski

Ordained April 4, 1948, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Kansas City, MO, by The Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, for the Diocese of Kansas City. Died in 1981.

Pastoral Appointments:

Assistant Pastor, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Kansas City, MO
Assistant Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Springfield, MO
Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Bolivar, MO; Pastor, St. William Parish, Buffalo, MO; Pastor, St. Patrick Mission, Greenfield, MO
Appointed Diocesan Director of Council of Catholic Youth
Pastor, St. Mary Parish, West Plains, MO; Pastor, St. William Parish, Gainesville, MO; Vicar Forane, West Plains Deanery
Pastor, SS Peter and Paul Parish, Pulaskifield; Pastor, St. Edward Parish, Cassville, MO
Pastor, St. John Vianney, Mountain View, MO; Pastor, St. Sylvester Mission, Eminence; Chaplain, Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, Mountain View
Associate Pastor, St. John Vianney Parish, Mountain View, MO; Pastor, St. Sylvester Mission, Eminence
Chaplain, Mercy Villa, Springfield
Aug. 23, 1981 – Deceased

William E. Donovan

Ordained to the priesthood on March 26, 1955, in Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis, by The Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Died in 1975. **A full press release may be found here.**

Wallace ('Wally') Ellinger

Ordained to the priesthood on February 28, 1953, in Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, St. Louis, by The Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Left the priesthood in 1975; was laicized and returned to the lay state in 1976; died in 2007. **A full press release may be found here.**

Mark C. Ernstmann

Ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 1951, in St. Joseph Church in Springfield, MO, by The Most Rev. Joseph M. Marling, Auxilary Bishop for the Diocese of Kansas City, Missouri. Died in August 2013. **The full press release may be found here.**

Larry Gregovich

Ordained to the priesthood May 20, 1972, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Kansas City, KS, by The Most Rev. William Baum for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Died in 2017.
The full press release may be found here.

Fred Lutz

Ordained to the priesthood on April 6, 1973, Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield, MO, by The Most Rev. William W. Baum for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau**.**
The full press release may be found here.

Ernest ('Ernie') Marquart

Ordained to the priesthood on December 18, 1970, in St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, by The Most Rev. Jacobus A. Hickey, for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. **A full press release may be found here.**

Paul McHugh

Ordained May 1, 1970, Our Lady of Providence Parish, St. Louis, MO, for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, by The Most Rev. William W. Baum. Died in 1983.

Pastoral Appointments:
Associate Pastor, Immaculate Conception, Springfield, MO
Associate Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Poplar Bluff, MO
Associate Pastor, St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, MO;
Instructor of Religion, Notre Dame Regional High School, Cape Girardeau;
Moderator, Council of Catholic Youth Deanery, Poplar Bluff, MO
Parochial Administrator, St. Joseph Parish, Advance, MO;
Parochial Administrator, St. Anthony Mission, Glennon, MO
Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Advance; Pastor, St. Anthony Mission, Glennon, MO
Pastor, St. Henry Parish, Charleston, MO
In residence, Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Branson, MO
Pastor, Our Lady of the Lake, Branson, MO
June 4, 1983 – Deceased

John Rynish

Ordained to the priesthood on February 21, 1943, in the Cathedral of Kansas City, MO, by The Most Rev. Edwin O'Hara for the Diocese of Kansas City. Died in 2001.
The full press release may be found here.

Stephen Schneider

Ordained May 27, 1972, St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, MO, by The Most Rev. William W. Baum, for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Died in 2016.

Pastoral Appointments:

Associate Pastor, St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, MO
Assistant Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Springfield, MO;
Director, Sacred Heart House of Studies, Springfield, MO
In residence, St. Susanne Parish, Mount Vernon, MO
Pastor, St. Mary Parish, West Plains, MO
Pastor, St. John Parish, Leopold, MO
Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Jackson, MO
Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Springfield, MO
Pastor, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sikeston, MO
Pastor, St. Henry Parish, Charleston, MO
Pastor, St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Joplin, MO
Feb. 24, 2006 – Removed from active ministry
March 13, 2016 – Deceased

Amel Shibley

Ordained March 25, 1962, Immaculate Conception Church, New Madrid, MO, by The Most Rev. Charles Helmsing, for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Died in 2002.

Pastoral Appointments:

Assistant Pastor, St. Lawrence Parish, New Hamburg, MO
Assistant Pastor, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sikeston, MO
Assistant Pastor, St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield, MO
Assistant Pastor, St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, MO
Pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Piedmont, MO; Pastor, St. George Mission, Van Buren, MO;
Pastor, Our Lady of Sorrows Mission, Williamsville, MO
Pastor, St. Ann Parish, Malden, MO
Pastor, St. Eustachius Parish, Portageville, MO
Pastor, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sikeston, MO
Diocesan Director, Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Pastor, St. Lawrence Parish, New Hamburg, MO
Aug. 1995 – Retired
Parochial Administrator, St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Fredericktown, MO
Sept. 13, 2002 - Deceased

John Wells

Ordained to the priesthood on May 13, 1950, in St. Meinrad Archabbey, IN, by The Most Rev. Paul Schulte for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Incardinated into the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau on June 1, 1964. Died in 1972.
The full press release may be found here.

Louis Wyrsch

Ordained, Dec. 16, 1964, St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, Italy, by The Most Rev. Francis Reh, STD, for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Died in 1997.

Pastoral Appointments:

Associate Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Poplar Bluff, MO;
Chaplain, Veteran's Administration Hospital, Poplar Bluff, MO
Associate Pastor, St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Joplin, MO
Deanery Moderator, Diocesan Council of Scouting
Part-time Associate, St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Joplin, MO;
Chaplain, Missouri Southern College
Director, Vocations, Joplin Deanery
Chaplain, Southwest Missouri State Ecumenical Center, Springfield, MO
1973 – Left priesthood
1990 – Laicized, returned to the lay state
1997 – Deceased

Religious Congregations

Since the establishment of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau in 1956 from territory that prior to 1956, was part of the then-Diocese of Kansas City and the Archdiocese of St. Louis, we have relied on the generosity of various religious orders to assist in staffing parishes and Catholic ministries. The names of those for whom allegations of sexual abuse involving a minor have been received appear below along with their dates of service, if known, in the Diocese. The ministry outline for diocesan priests with allegations of abuse appears below.

Religious order priests with allegations:

Stephen Juda, CR**,** Congregation of the Resurrection
1971—Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Salem; Christ the King Mission Church, Bunker, MO, and St. John the Baptist Mission Church, Licking, MO
2006—Deceased

Thomas G. Meyer, OMI, Oblates of Mary Immaculate Oblate House at Our Lady of the Ozarks, Carthage, MO, (opened junior seminary in 1944, when still part of the Diocese of Kansas City, closed in 1971); possible supply priest at St. Ann Parish, Carthage, or area.
1998-1999—Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Mansfield, MO, and St. Leo the Great Parish, Ava, MO
2012—Deceased

Thomas Parrott*, CM, Vincentian Fathers
1967-1972—St. Vincent's College, Cape Girardeau, MO
July 1972—Chaplain, St. Vincent's Hospital, Monett, MO
Nov. 1972—Associate Pastor, Holy Trinity Parish, Springfield, MO
Jan. 1973—Administrator, St. Mary Parish, Seneca, MO, and Nativity of Our Lord Mission Church, Noel, MO
Nov. 1974—*Incardinated into the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
Feb. 1976—Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Seneca, MO
1987—Retired
1996—Deceased

Edgar Probstfield, OSB, Rule of St. Benedict, Benedictines
1959-1965—Assistant/Associate Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Springfield, MO
1976-1984—Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Springfield
2007—Deceased

Mark Santo, OSM, Order of Friar Servants of Mary, Servites
1964-1966—Associate Pastor, St. Marie du Lac Parish, Ironton, MO
2013—Deceased

Emil Twardochleb, OMI, Oblates of Mary Immaculate
1948-1950—Oblate House at Our Lady of the Ozarks, Carthage, MO, (opened junior seminary in 1944, when still part of the Diocese of Kansas City, closed in 1971); possible supply priest at St. Ann Parish, Carthage, or area. No assignment by diocesan bishop.
1975—Deceased

Bernard Vedder, OMI, Oblates of Mary Immaculate
1959-1964— Oblate House at Our Lady of the Ozarks, Carthage, MO, (opened junior seminary in 1944, when still part of the Diocese of Kansas City, closed in 1971); possible supply priest at St. Ann Parish, Carthage, or area. No assignment by diocesan bishop.
1995—Laicized, returned to lay state

Henry Vetter, CP, Passionist Order, formerly known as the Congregation of the Passion of Christ
1947-1949—Chicago House, Missionary Priest *
1949-1950—St. Paul, Kansas House, Missionary Priest*
1977—Deceased
(*Missionary priests would conduct retreats/missions in the area; abuse occurred between 1948-1950 in St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church Joplin, when the church [and school] was still part of the Diocese of Kansas City).
See the full press release issued Sept. 3, 2020, by the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph here.

Order priests within the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau with reported abuse outside of the Diocese:

Wayne Barron, CMF, Claretian Missionaries
1984-1989—Associate Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Poplar Bluff, MO
1989-1992—Ministry in Springfield area: Sacred Heart Parish, Catholic Campus Ministry at Missouri State University, Springfield
1990s—Removed from ministry by Claretians

Vincent Barsch, OSB, Rule of St. Benedict/Conception Abbey, Conception, MO
1966-1967—Assistant/Associate Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Springfield, MO
1967-1968—Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Springfield, MO
1973—Left the priesthood
2010—Deceased

Damian Boeding* OSB, Order of St. Benedict, Benedictines
Came to Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau from the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS, in 1969.
June 1969—Administrator, Sacred Heart Parish, Webb City, MO
1970—*Incardinated into the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
Jan. 1971—Associate Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Springfield
July 1971—Pastor, St. Cecilia Parish, Kennett, MO, and St. Joseph Mission Church, Steele, MO (closed in 1986)
April 1972—Associate Pastor, St. Canera Parish, Neosho, MO
Sept 1972—In Residence, St. Agnes Cathedral, Springfield
Mar 1974—Pastor, St. William Parish, Buffalo, MO; Chaplain, Cox Medical Center, Springfield
July 1974—Relieved as Pastor in Buffalo for reasons of health
Jan. 1975—Chaplain, St. de Chantal Monastery, Springfield
1975—Left the priesthood
1984—Reinstated to priesthood, no longer in Diocese
Aug. 1988—Retired
2003—Deceased

Floyd A. Brey, SJ, USA Midwest Province of Society of Jesus (Jesuits)
1972-1975, Chaplain, St. Vincent Hospital, Monett, MO
1996—Deceased
Allegation was reported to Jesuits referring to a period in 1958 at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee, WI. Found credible by Jesuits.

Michael Charland, OMI, Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Oblate House at Our Lady of the Ozarks, Carthage, MO, (opened junior seminary in 1944, Diocese of Kansas City, closed in 1971); possible supply priest at St. Ann Parish, Carthage, or area. No assignment by diocesan bishop.
1989—Laicized, returned to lay state
2004—Deceased

John 'Jack' Farris, CM, Vincentian Fathers
1980—Associate Pastor, St. Lawrence Parish, New Hamburg, MO
June 1981-Sept. 1981—Pastor, St. Lawrence Parish, New Hamburg
2003—Deceased

J. Vincent Fitzgerald, OMI, Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Oblate House at Our Lady of the Ozarks, Carthage, MO, (opened junior seminary in 1944, Diocese of Kansas City, closed in 1971); possible supply priest at St. Ann Parish, Carthage, or area. No assignment by diocesan bishop.
2009—Deceased

Richard Lause, CM, Vincentian Fathers
1992—Pastor, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau, MO
1995-1998—Pastor, St. Henry Parish, Charleston, MO
2003—Removed from Ministry by the Vincentians

Charles Mrowinski, CR, Congregation of the Resurrection
May 8-Nov. 30, 1957 (6 months)—Associate Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Salem, MO

1964-1971—Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Salem, MO
2008—Deceased
2013—Accused of abuse in Archdiocese of Chicago; alleged incident occurred in 1984. Found credible by Resurrectionists.

Orville Munie, OMI, Oblates of Mary Immaculate
1944-47—Oblate House at Our Lady of the Ozarks, Carthage, MO, (opened junior seminary in 1944, when still part of the Diocese of Kansas City, closed in 1971); possible supply priest at St. Ann Parish, Carthage, or area. No assignment by diocesan Bishop.
1993—Deceased

William Paiz, CMF, Claretian Missionary
Sept. 2011—Sacramental Priest, Holy Trinity Parish, Aurora, MO
Nov. 2011—Sacramental Priest, Sacred Heart Parish, Verona, MO
Jan. 2012—Removed from Ministry by the Claretians

John Ruhl, CM, Vincentian Fathers
No assignment by Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau; could have been in and out of the Cape Girardeau area due to various ministries within the Vincentian order.
1992—Removed from ministry by the Vincentians
2018— Deceased

Daniel Schulte, CM, Vincentian Fathers
1999-2002—Associate Pastor, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau, MO
2006—Removed from Ministry by the Vincentians
2020—Deceased

Francis Zimmerer, OSB, Order of St. Benedict, Benedictines
1960—Associate/Assistant Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Pierce City, MO
1983—Deceased

Order priests who resided in Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau that were removed in ministry by Order while investigation conducted by Order:

John Turnbull, OFM, St. John the Baptist Province, Franciscan Friars
No assignment from the diocesan bishop; Fr. Turnbull was placed on administrative leave/removed from ministry by the Franciscan Friars in 2005 and resided in Our Lady of the Angels Friary, Ava, MO, through process of investigation. Information on how to document an allegation of abuse with the St. John the Baptist Province may be found here.
2017—Deceased

Henry Willenborg, OFM, Sacred Heart Province, Franciscan Friars
No assignment from the diocesan bishop; Fr. Willenborg was placed on administrative leave/removed from ministry by the Franciscan Friars in 2009 and resided in Our Lady of the Angels Friary, Ava, MO, through process of investigation.

Priests from other dioceses (extern priests) with allegations that served in Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau:

John Baskett, Diocese of Kansas City, now Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.
Spring-July 1955—Chaplain, then-St. John's Hospital, Joplin, MO
1975—Left Priesthood
1995—Deceased

Robert F. Johnston, Archdiocese of St. Louis
May 2, 1962-May 11, 1964—Associate Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Poplar Bluff, MO, and Motor Missions
Removed from ministry by Archdiocese

Aloysius J. Marschner, Archdiocese of St. Louis
Jan. 29, 1947-April 12, 1948—St. Joseph Parish, Scott City, MO
2004—Deceased

Thomas J. O'Brien, Diocese of Kansas City, now Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.
Oct. 1950-June 1954—Associate/Assistant Pastor, St. Agnes Cathedral Parish, Springfield, MO
2013—Deceased

Bernard O'Flynn, Archdiocese of St. Louis
Aug. 1, 1926-December 1, 1929—Sacred Heart Mission Church, Thayer, MO
Dec. 1, 1929 until 1940—St. Eustachius Parish, Portageville, MO
1981—Deceased

John Wieberg, Archdiocese of St. Louis
1926-1930—St. Joseph Parish, Advance, MO
1930-1948—St. Henry Parish, Charleston, MO
1948-1950—St. Joseph Parish, Arcadia, MO (closed in 1957)
1963—Deceased

Ralph Zimmer, Archdiocese of St. Louis
April 9, 1947-Sept. 11, 1947—St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sikeston, MO
1981—Deceased