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Status Report on Clerics Accused of Sexual Abuse of Minors

Church law for the United States is very clear in regards to clerics who have abused minors:

"When even a single act of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest or deacon is admitted or is established after an appropriate process in accordance with canon law, the offending priest or deacon will be removed permanently from ecclesiastical ministry, not excluding dismissal from the clerical state, if the case so warrants."

"If the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state has not been applied (e.g., for reasons of advanced age or infirmity), the offender ought to lead a life of prayer and penance. He will not be permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or to administer the sacraments. He is to be instructed not to wear clerical garb, or to present himself publicly as a priest."

"When an accusation has been shown to be unfounded, every step possible will be taken to restore the good name of the person falsely accused."

In the interest of accountability, the Diocese of Marquette maintains a list of names of men who have substantiated claims against them of sexually abusing a minor while assigned as clergy in our diocese. A substantiated claim is one for which sufficient evidence exists to establish reasonable grounds to believe that the alleged abuse occurred. It is not a presumption of guilt. The following men are listed here on the recommendation of the Independent Review Board for the Diocese of Marquette.

This is the status of the following priests of the Diocese of Marquette.

1. Administrative Leave

Administrative leave is a temporary precautionary measure to remove a priest or deacon from public ministry while an allegation is being investigated. If the allegation is substantiated, the priest is either permanently removed from the clerical state or priestly ministry. The diocese will announce any change in the status of these priests.

- ▶ **Rev. Frank M. Lenz** - Placed on administrative leave April 2, 2018.

2. Permanently Removed from Priestly Ministry

After initially being put on administrative leave, the following have been permanently removed from priestly ministry at the direction of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican. They are prohibited from wearing clerical clothing and publicly presenting themselves as priests. Expected to lead a life of prayer and penance, they are still under the authority of the bishop and subject to certain priestly responsibilities including celibacy.

- ▶ **Rev. Joseph D. Carne** - Removed from priestly ministry in April, 2002.
- ▶ **Rev. Richard T. Craig** - Removed from priestly ministry in September, 1993.

- ▶ **Rev. James L. Menapace** - Removed from priestly ministry in July, 2002.

3. Permanently Removed from the Clerical State

Permanent removal from the clerical state means that in accord with canon law these priests are no longer incardinated in the Diocese of Marquette and are unable to function as a priest anywhere.

- ▶ **Gary A. Jacobs** - Removed from priestly ministry in December, 1988. Removed from the clerical state in 2010.

4. Other

There are no priests or deacons currently in this category.



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