

History of Sexual Misconduct of Clergy Serving in the Diocese of Joliet in Illinois 1949 – 1983 et seq.

Revised August 24, 2010
Submitted in Connection with Plaintiff's Motion to Compel Discovery
Against the Diocese of Joliet.

The citations below are by no means an exhaustive list of the incidents of publicly reported sexual misconduct of clergy serving in the Diocese of Joliet. Some of the best evidence of this misconduct is contained in the internal files of the Diocese. The internal documents of the Diocese of Joliet are relevant as to what the Diocese knew or should have known about sexual misconduct of clergy serving in the Diocese.

1950's:

1958: Fr. James Janssen, a known pedophile, lives at the St. Isaac Jogues, Hinsdale, Illinois, Rectory while he is being treated for pedophilia at Loyola University Medical Center by Jesuit Psychiatrist, William Devlin, MD, SJ. During this time, Fr. Janssen is made Chaplain of the Boy Scout Troop at St. Isaac's, and sexually molests a boy of the parish. Letters between the boy and Janssen are presented to Fr. Henehan, pastor of St. Isaac's by the boy's mother. The letters between Fr. Janssen and the minor boy detail sexual misconduct in graphic detail. At the time Fr. Henehan receives these letters, he is an official of the Diocese of Joliet, a member of the Diocese of Joliet "Curia."

(Documents and Letters Sent by Fr. Henehan to Bishop Hayes, Bishop of the Davenport Diocese where Fr. Janssen came from, with attachments.)

1960's:

1960-

**1988: Fr. James Frederick serves in the Diocese of Joliet and faces
"substantiated abuse allegations" while in ministry.**

(Chicago Tribune, Manya A. Brachear, April 11, 2006, 'Priest in Sex Cases Listed: Joliet Diocese Names
22 on Internet Site')

1963-

**1969: Fr. John Slown, Fr. Arno Dennerlein and Fr. Richard Ruffalo abuse
brothers (John and Jeff Welch) at St. John the Baptist in Winfield.**

(Chicago Sun-Times, Ted Slowik, October 15, 2003, 'Joliet Brothers Sue Church, Urge it to Confront
Abuse')

(John and Jeff Welch v The Diocese of Joliet, John Slown, Arno Dennerlein and Richard Ruffalo
2003L001091, par. 22-26)

1967-

**1972: Fr. Myles P. White molests 13-year-old boy at St. Isaac Jogues
Catholic Church in Hinsdale. Victim later commits suicide.**

(Chicago Tribune, Jerry Shnay, August 17, 1993, '3 Suits Blame Diocese for Priests' Sex Abuse')
(Plaintiffs' Response to Defendant Reverend Myles P. White's Section 5/2-619 Motion to Dismiss
Counts O and XII, par 3)

1967-

**1970: Fr. Donald O'Connor abuses an adolescent boy at Assumption
Catholic Church in Coal City.**

(Chicago Tribune, Shia Kapos, May 19, 2002, 'Joliet Ousts Another Priest in Abuse Case')

1968: Fr. John Barrett abuses boy at Notre Dame School in Clarendon Hills.

(Chicago Sun-Times, May 8, 2002, 'Tearful Priest: 'I'm Innocent')

1968-

**1973: Fr. Gary Berthiaume abuses 12 and 13-year-old brothers at Our Lady
of Sorrows parish in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Case settles for
\$35,000. Berthiaume also settles a case having been accused of
sexually abusing four boys at a parish in Wyandotte, Michigan.
Bishop Imesch admits at his deposition that he knew Berthiaume
and knew about jail time that Berthiaume served for sexual
misconduct - - before Bishop Imesch comes to Joliet, as its Bishop
in 1979.**

(Chicago Sun-Times, May 12, 2002, 'The Ousted Priests')

**1969: Fr. Edward Stefanich molests John Doe 85 at Christ the King Church
in Lombard.**

(Chicago Tribune, Karen Mellen, September 24, 2003, 'Diocese Hit With Another Sex Suit')

**1960s: Fr. Edward Stefanich accused of molesting boy at St. Joseph
Catholic Church in Lockport.**

(Chicago Daily Herald, Tona Kunz, September 24, 2003, 'Former Priest Accused of Abuse Decades Later
Man Says He Was Molested at Lombard School between 1969-1970')

1970's:

1970: Fr. Donald Pock sexually abuses George Knotek at the Divine Savior Parish in Downer's Grove.

(Chicago Tribune, Manya A. Brachear, February 28, 2006, 'Alleged Victim Demands Names of Accused Priests')

1974: Fr. Phillip Dederer molests teenager at St. Andrew the Apostle in Romeoville.

(Chicago Tribune, David Heinzmann, April 17, 2002, 'Joliet Diocese Suspends Priest')

1974-

1976: Fr. Phillip Dederer molests an altar boy (Tim Greco) at St. Pius X parish in Lombard. The boy is abused by Dederer over 100 times.

(Chicago Sun-Times, May 3, 2006, 'Accused Naperville Pastor Proclaims Innocence')

1974-

1978: Acting together as a team, Fr. Jeffery Salwach and Fr. Harold Jochem jointly abuse a 7-year-old minor boy, a student at St. Jude Catholic Parish in New Lenox. That is, the two priests abuse this boy at the same time. This abuse continues for numerous years.

(Daily Southtown, July 17, 2004, 'Priests Accused of Sex Abuse')

(See also Complaint: John Doe v Jeffrey Salwach, the Order of the Franciscans, John Doctor, Joseph Imesch and the Diocese of Joliet 04L 341, par. 5)

1975: Fr. Carroll Howlin abuses a boy studying at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and while on a camping trip to Kentucky.

(Chicago Tribune, David Heinzmann, April 17, 2002, 'Joliet Diocese Suspends Priest: Allegations Date to '75 Romeoville Seminary Post')

1975-

1978: Fr. Larry Mullins abuses George Fehrenbacher repeatedly at St. Raymond's Cathedral and Cathedral School. The abuse takes place in the sacristy, the school, the rectory and at the victims home. Later, Mullins would sexually abuse Fehrenbacher's brother, Christopher. Specific behavior by Mullins includes lewd fondling, masturbation and fellatio.

(Chicago Tribune, Manya A. Brachear, March 4, 2006, '3 Priest Abuse Suits Filed')

(Complaint: George A. Fehrenbacher v. Lawrence Mullins, the Diocese of Joliet, and Joseph Imesch 06L 136, par. 6)

1975-

1980: Fr. Larry Mullins abuses Adam Doe while serving as the basketball coach at St. Raymond's Cathedral parish school. Note: While Mullins abuses minors as a basketball coach, Ruffalo sexually abuses minors as head of the altar boys at St. Raymond's Cathedral. During this time, Mullins is nicknamed "Fr. Gacy" by boys of the parish. Reference is to serial predator, John Wayne Gacy.

(Chicago Tribune, Manya A. Brachear, March 4, 2006, '3 Priest Abuse Suits Filed')

- 1975: Fr. Richard Bennett fondles an 11-year-old altar boy, Tim Greco, after mass at St. Pius X parish in Lombard.**
(See Complaint: Tim Greco v The Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet, Bishop Imesch, Philip Dederer and Richard Bennett 2006L000416, par. 12,13)
- 1975: Fr. Frederick Lenczycki inappropriately touches three boys at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Naperville.**
(Chicago Daily Herald, March 14, 2008, 'Doctor: Priest is in Denial')
- 1977-1980's: Fr. Lawrence M. Gibbs molests two boys from Lombard and one boy from Lockport.**
(Daily Herald, Christy Gutowski, May 17, 2006, 'Views on Imesch, Scandal Divided but Strong')
(St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Greg Jonsson, June 28, 2002, "State Reassigns Ex-Priest Suspected of Sexual Misconduct with Minors: Now a Social Worker, He Has Been Investigating Reports of Elder Abuse")
- 1977: Fr. Lawrence M. Gibbs molests a youth at St. James the Apostle Church in Glen Ellyn, IL.**
(See Joseph Dittrich v Rev. Lawrence Gibbs and Bishop Joseph Imesch: Memorandum of Opinion on Plaintiff's Motion to Vacate Protective Orders and Intervener Chicago Tribune's Motion to Unseal Certain Pleadings and Exhibits Filed Under Seal 93L 003, par. 2)
- 1978-1982: Fr. James Burnett repeatedly molests Dan Shanahan at St. Mary's in Mokena. The abuse occurs for approximately 4 years from 1978-1982.**
(See Complaint: Dan Shanahan v The Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet, Bishop Imesch and James Burnett 2006L000529, par. 10)
(Chicago Tribune, Lolly Bowean, March 29, 2006, 'Priest's Parish Letter Denies Abuse Charges')
- 1978-1980: Fr. Lawrence Mullins molests Benedict Doe at St. Raymond's Cathedral in Joliet.**
(Chicago Tribune, Manya A. Brachear, March 4, 2006, '3 Priest Abuse Suits Filed: Plaintiff Alleges Cleric Sent Him Gifts from Sex-Treatment Facility')
(Complaint: Benedict Doe v Lawrence Mullins, Diocese of Joliet and Joseph Imesch 06L 137, par 6)
- 1978-1981: Fr. Myles P. White begins abusing John Roe at St. Boniface in Monee, in Illinois and at White's home in Culver, Indiana.**
(Chicago Tribune, Jerry Shnay, December 1, 1994, 'Diocese Settles Lawsuit')
- 1978: Police arrest Fr. Gary Berthiaume for sexually abusing 12-year-old altar boy in Michigan. "Bishop Imesch knew that Gary Berthiaume, a priest of the Diocese, had admitted to and been convicted of molesting a child. Subsequently, Imesch assigned Berthiaume in the Joliet Diocese. Imesch has admitted that he did not report Berthiaume's admission of guilt to the police because "That's a job for the police. I'm not going to get involved in that. That's not my responsibility.""**
(See Class Action Complaint: George Knotek v The Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet and Bishop Imesch 2006CH000351, par. 14)

1979-

1982: Fr. Michael Gibbney begins sexually abusing 11-year-old boy, Bobby Drish, at St. Francis of Assisi in Bolingbrook. The abuse lasts 2-3 years.

(See Complaint: Robert Scott Drish v Joseph Imesch and the Diocese of Joliet 02L 494, par. 2)

1978-

1979: Fr. Gibbney molests James Fonck at Mary Queen of Heaven parish in Elmhurst.

(Brian Softcheck, John Doe I, John Doe II, John Doe III v Joseph Imesch, Lawrence Mullins, James Fonck and Michael Gibbney 02L 494, par 14-18)

1978-

1980: Fr. Larry Mullins molests Christopher Fehrenbacher at St. Raymond's Cathedral in Joliet. Christopher is the younger brother of George Fehrenbacher, who Mullins also molested.

(See Complaint: Christopher Fehrenbacher v Lawrence Mullins, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet, and Joseph Imesch 04L 400, par. 5)

1979: Fr. Gibbs accused of abusing young boy. Bishop Imesch transfers Gibbs to another parish.

(Chicago Tribune, Todd Lighty and David Heinzmann, May 16, 2002, 'Bishop Says He Knew of Scandal: Criticism Grows over Imesch's History of Handling Sex-Abuse Allegations')

1979-

1980: Fr. "Thomas J. Roe" molests James Doe at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Carol Stream. The Priest allegedly exposes himself to the youth and fondles him in the parish rectory.

(James M. Doe v Bishop L. Imesch, Diocese of Joliet and Thomas J. Roe 03L 646, par 17)

1979: Fr. Richard Ruffalo, a Diocese of Joliet priest, sexually abuses Tim Placher on a Las Vegas vacation. Although the boy had never been there before, the hotel bar where the two went knew the priest well. The two stay at Ruffalo's vacation home where he frequently took teen boys.

(The Herald News, Joe Hosey, February 24, 2006, 'Abuse Story Strikes a Nerve')
(Chicago Sun-Times, Tim Placher, March 5, 2006, 'Bless Me Father for You Have Sinned')

1970s: Fr. Howlin is accused of molesting boy on a camping trip in Wisconsin.

(Lexington Herald Leader, Art Jester and Lee Mueller, April 17, 2002, 'Lawyer is Representing 1970s Seminary Student')

1970's: Fr. Jeffrey Salwach sexually abuses John Doe at St. Jude Parish in New Lenox.

(Daily Southtown, June 17, 2004, 'Priest Accused of Sex Abuse')

1977-

1987: Fr. Lawrence Mullins molests Brian Softcheck, James Oberg, and John Doe I, II, III. The abuse occurs when boys were between the ages of 9 and 13.

(Complaint: Adam Doe v Joseph Imesch, the Diocese of Joliet and Anthony Ross, Pg. 3, March 2, 2006)

1980's:

1980: Fr. Lawrence Gibbs takes a dozen boys to a cabin at Wonder Lake in McHenry cabin and gives them alcohol. Gibbs makes the boys take off their clothes and parade around naked for him.

(Chicago Tribune, Todd Lighty and David Heinzmann, May 16, 2002, 'Bishop Says He Knew of Scandal')

1980: Fr. Lawrence Gibbs begins molesting Joseph Dittrick at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lockport, and then later at a Catholic boarding school that Dittrick attended in Lockport. The abuse lasts 7 years.

(Chicago Tribune, Bob Merrifield, March 24, 1994, 'Abuse Suites against 2 Priests Dropped')

1980 or

1981: Fr. Myles P. White strips off Jim Doe's pants in front of others. The priest then fondles the boy at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Monee.

(Chicago Tribune, Jerry Shnay, August 17, 1993, '3 Suits Blame Diocese for Priests' Sex Abuse')

1980: Fr. Richard Ruffalo sexually abuses Jimmy Komp at St. Mary's in Park Forest.

(The Herald News, Dan Lavoie, February 24, 2006, 'Bishop 'Hurt' by Criticism')

1980: Fr. Frederick Lenczycki molests John Doe 87 at St. Isaac Jogues.

(Daily Herald, Christy Gutowski, January 13, 2004, 'Priest Goes to Prison for Abuse')

(Complaint: John Doe 87 v The Diocese of Joliet and Frederick Lenczycki 2003L001283, par 11)

1981: Fr. William Virtue sexually abuses 10-year-old Timothy Shanahan at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mokena. Virtue's abuse included sexual penetration of Tim Shanahan. Dan Shanahan, his brother, was present when some of the sexual abuse by Fr. Virtue took place.

(CBS 2, May 24, 2006, 'Two Brothers Claim Abuse by Priests')

(Complaint: Tim Shanahan v Diocese of Joliet and William Virtue 06L-528, par. 9)

1981: Fr. Michael Gibbney molests David Mortell on separate occasions at Mary Queen of Heaven parish in Elmhurst and at St. Francis of Assisi in Bolingbrook.

(Complaint: David T. Mortell v Joseph Imesch, the Diocese of Joliet and Michael L. Gibbney 06L 81, par 14)

1981: Fr. David Stalzer sexually abuses a boy. The case was dismissed in 1994 after the accuser dropped out of sight.

(Herald News, Ted Slowik, May 5, 2002, 'Worst Kept Secrets: Sexual Abuse Cases: Plenty of Public Information on 15 Joliet Diocese Priests')

- 1981: Fr. Gibbs is accused in case with Rev. Stalszer of repeatedly molesting a boy from St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lockport.**
(Chicago Tribune, David Uhler, January 21, 1993, 'Joliet Priest Accused in Sex Lawsuit')
- 1981: Fr. Anthony Ross molests a boy twice at Ross' residence at St. Peter and Apostle in Itasca. Letters proving an inappropriate relationship are presented to Bishop Imesch in 1983 by the boy's parents.**
(Chicago Tribune, Manya A. Brachear, March 4, 2006, '3 Priest Abuse Suits Filed')
(Complaint: Adam Doe v Joseph Imesch, the Diocese of Joliet and Anthony Ross 06L 135, par 10-12)
- 1982: Bishop Ryan tries to kiss another Joliet priest and groped the man. This sexual misconduct of Bishop Ryan is reported by the priest to Bishop Vonesh and Bishop Imesch, officials of the Joliet Diocese.**
(Herald News, Ted Slowik, August 11, 2002, 'Cloak of Secrecy')
- 1982-**
- 1988: Fr. Myles White begins molesting 6-year-old boy at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Monee. The abuse lasts 6 years.**
(Chicago Tribune, Jerry Shnay, April 22, 1995, 'Suit is Quickly Settled in Sex Abuse by Priest')
- 1982: Fr. Frederick Lenczycki molests Brian Doe when he was 10 years old at St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale. Abuse occurred 20-30 times.**
(Chicago Daily Herald, Christy Gutowski, March 25, 2008, 'Pedophile Priest's Victim: "You Can't Have 30 Victims and Have Remorse')
(Chicago Tribune, Art Barnum, March 24, 2008, "He Has Truly Got What He Deserves")
- 1983: Fr. John Slown sexually abuses a boy from the Diocese in a hot tub on a Las Vegas trip. Slown is defrocked and moves to Colorado.**
(Herald News, Ted Slowik, August 11, 2002, 'Cloak of Secrecy')
- 1983: Fr. Burnett molests David Rudofski during his first confession at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mokena.**
(Herald News, Stewart Warren, May 5, 2007, 'Area Priest under Fire in Latest Lawsuit: St. Mary's Parish')

1984

- 1984: Fr. Leonardo Mateo returns to the Philippines amid accusations that he sexually molested boys at Immaculate Conception Parish in Elmhurst.**
(The Herald News, Tony Graf and Ted Slowik, May 17, 2006, 'History of Abuse Allegations')
- 1984: Fr. Lenczycki is accused of inappropriate behavior with at least 9 altar boys at St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale. Lenczycki is arrested in Jan. 2004 and is sentenced to 5 years in prison in relation to suit filed by 3 boys who claim abuse in 1984. In total, Lenczycki admits to molesting 13 males in Hinsdale and as many as 30 males in 6 parishes in three other states.**
(Chicago Daily Herald, Christy Gutowski, March 14, 2008, 'Doctor: Priest is in Denial')
(Daily Herald, Christy Gutowski, March 19, 2008, 'Expert: Priest Feels True Remorse for His Crimes')

1985: Fr. Salvatore Formusa retires early amidst allegations that he sexually abused minors in Joliet.
(Chicago Tribune, Manya A. Brachear, April 11 2006, 'Priests in Sex Cases Listed: Joliet Diocese Names 22 on Internet Site')
(The Herald News, Ted Slowik, April 12, 2006, 'Imesch Disrupted at Mass: St. Ray's Outburst: Bishop Was Honoring Two Priests Accused of Sex Abuse')

1985-

1986: Fr. Edward Stefanich is accused of sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl at St. Scholastica in Woodbridge. He is arrested and pleads guilty.
(Chicago Daily Herald, Tona Kunz, September 24, 2003, 'Former Priest Accused of Abuse Decades Later Man Says He Was Molested at Lombard School between 1969-1970')

Late

1980s: Fr. Anthony Meis is accused of sexual misconduct with minor at St. Mary and Joseph Parish in Chebanse.
(Chicago Tribune, David Heinzmann, May 1, 2002, 'St. Louis Says Joliet Didn't Tell Priest Past')

1990's:

1990 -

1992: Fr. Myles P. White engages in sexual activity with a 14 or 15-year-old boy. One incident is caught on videotape, which White mistakenly donates to a garage sale. White is arrested and charged in 1992 and serves 21 months in prison.
(Associated Press, July 30, 1992, 'Priest Held in Video Sex Abuse Case')

1990: Fr. Henry Slade sexually abuses an 18-year-old with Cerebral Palsy at the Parish Rectory of St. Isidore Catholic Church in Bloomington. Fr. Anthony Ross is named as acting administrator of St. Isidore's by the diocese. Before this time, Fr. Ross himself had sexually abused minor boys and had been sent away by the Diocese for treatment for such misconduct.
(Chicago Tribune, Nancy Ryan, February 10, 1990, 'Bloomington Priest Guilty of Sex Abuse')

1992: Fr. J. Michael Foley fondles a 17-year-old female student in the hallway of Saint Francis High School in Wheaton.
(Chicago Tribune, Janita Poe, July 31, 1992, 'Kankakee Priest is Suspended')

1992: Fr. Lowell Fischer sexually abuses an emotionally disabled man who was referred to him for counseling. After several months of therapy, Fischer threatens to withdraw his support for the young man if he does not reciprocate with sexual favors.
(Honolulu Advertiser, Blakeman Karen, May 6, 2002, 'Ex-Hawaii Priest under Investigation in Illinois')

1994: Fr. Poff abuses victim.
(Chicago Tribune, David Heinzmann, May 6, 2002, '4 Joliet Priests Ousted: Allegations of Sexual Abuse Involve Pastors in Elmhurst and Itasca')

2000's:

2000: Fr. John Furdek is arrested in a fast food restaurant parking lot in Racine County on charges of enticement of a minor. Investigator poses as a 14-year-old boy. Furdeck is a pastor at St. Alexander's Church in Villa Park at the time.

(The Herald News, Tony Graf and Ted Slowik, May 17, 2006, 'History of Abuse Allegations')

**Other Evidence of Sexual Misconduct
By Diocese of Joliet Clergy**

The above citations are by no means an exhaustive list of the incidence of publically reported sexual misconduct of clergy serving in the Diocese of Joliet. Some of the best evidence of this misconduct is contained in the internal files of the Diocese.

Pedophile Priests Referenced in this Document:

*Admitted by Diocese of Joliet
(See Diocese of Joliet website listing
the following 22 Priests as Pedophiles)*

1. Fr. Phillip Dederá
2. Fr. A rno Dennerlein
3. Fr. Lowell Fischer
4. Fr. Salvatore Formosa
5. Fr. John Furdek
6. Fr. Michael Gibbney
7. Fr. Lawrence Gibbs
8. Fr. Carroll Howlin
9. Fr. Frederick Lenczycki
10. Fr. Leonardo Mateo
11. Fr. Anthony Meis
12. Fr. Lawrence Mullins
13. Fr. Donald O'Connor
14. Fr. Donald Pock
15. Fr. Edward Poff
16. Fr. Anthony Ross
17. Fr. Richard Ruffalo
18. Fr. Henry Slade
19. Fr. John Slown
21. Fr. Edward Stefanich
22. Fr. Myles White

*Other Priests Accused of Sexual
Misconduct Against Minors who
Have served in the Diocese of Joliet*

1. Fr. John Barrett
2. Fr. Richard Bennett
3. Fr. Gary Berthiaume
4. Fr. James Burnett
5. Fr. J. Michael Foley
6. Fr. James Janssen
7. Fr. Harold Jochem
8. Fr. "Thomas Roe"
9. Bishop Daniel Ryan
10. Fr. Jeffrey Salwach
11. Fr. David Stalzer
12. Fr. William Virtue
