

# July 2018- December 2020 Report

## Protecting Children & Young People

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany enforces a zero tolerance policy for sexual abuse of minors by clergy or employees, publicly reports the names of clergy who have been credibly accused of abusing a minor at any time in the past, and welcomes outside law enforcement review of all cases of abuse.

The Diocese seeks to prevent abuse today and in the future, while providing compassionate and meaningful support to survivors, and punishing abusers. Sexual abuse of minors is an egregious sin and a crime, and we report all allegations to law enforcement.

In keeping with our record of transparency on this issue, this report provides a public accounting of incidents of clergy sexual abuse of minors in the Albany Diocese. The Diocese has published such reports since 2002 and includes a list of all credibly accused clergy on its website. This report encompasses the period from July 1, 2018 through December 31 2020.

No priest or deacon determined to have sexually abused a minor at any time is permitted to remain in ministry, nor can he be transferred into, out of, or within the Diocese. Any employee who is determined to have sexually abused a minor will also be removed by the Diocese. There are no priests or deacons in ministry nor any employees serving the Diocese today whom the Diocese has determined to have sexually abused a minor at any time. All allegations of clergy sexual abuse, regardless of when the incident was alleged to have occurred, are reported to law enforcement agencies and the Diocese cooperates fully in their investigations.

Preventing abuse is as important as punishing those who have abused in the past, and for more than 15 years, we have conducted mandatory background checks on priests, deacons, employees and volunteers who interact with children.

### *To report sexual abuse:*

- Contact any law enforcement agency;
- Contact Albany Diocese Assistance Coordinator Frederick Jones at (518) 453-6646 or at [assistance.coordinator@rcda.org](mailto:assistance.coordinator@rcda.org)

We also ensure that age-appropriate training programs are provided to children, parents, teachers and volunteers, so they can recognize the warning signs and protect themselves and others.

The Diocese is also committed to providing meaningful support to survivors of clergy sexual abuse. The Church has apologized to victims, and has provided counseling and emergency assistance, and continues to do so. The Diocesan Assistance Coordinator is dedicated to working with individuals who were abused as minors, no matter when the abuse occurred.

Since 2002, the Albany Diocese has undergone multiple independent audits — including a comprehensive onsite audit in 2020 — all of which have found the Diocese in full compliance with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

### *July 1, 2018 – December 31, 2020*

During the period covered by this report, 131 allegations of sexual misconduct against a minor were brought forward by 109 individuals against 86 clergy members. All of the allegations refer to incidents alleged to have occurred between 22 and 59 years ago and, consistent with our policy, all were reported to law enforcement.

The remaining allegations were returned to the Diocese and investigated by the Diocesan Sexual Misconduct Review Board. In each case where an individual identified an alleged abuser, the accused had previously been removed from ministry, was already retired from active ministry, or is deceased.

Beyond investigating and responding to allegations, the Diocese has focused on preventing abuse by educating children and adults, and embracing and enforcing clear practices to prevent sexual abuse.

During the period from July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020, the Diocese completed background checks on 1,658 adults who work for the Diocese or volunteer in programs where they interact with minors. An additional 544 Catholic School teachers and 271 school staff members were background-checked through the NYS TEACH fingerprint system.

The Diocese's safety training program teaches adults how to identify potential signs of abuse and how to limit opportunities for abuse. A total of 1,734 adults participated in this training from July 1, 2018 through December 20, 2020. In the Fall of 2020, the Diocese moved to a new training platform, CMG Connect, which provides Safe Environment Training from Catholic Mutual Group.

Age-appropriate safety awareness programs were provided to 13,161 children and youth from kindergarten through 12th grade in schools and parish faith formation programs during the 2019 school year. During the 2020 catechetical and school year 8,928 children and youth were trained. Due to COVID-19 shutdowns, in-person training, was not available in many parishes and schools, but parent information was sent home. In the summer of 2020 the Diocese adopted the Circle of Grace child and youth protection curriculum to be used in all parishes and schools.

In addition, the Diocese provides assistance to victims through the office of the Diocesan Assistance Coordinator. Between July 1, 2018 and December 31, 2020, the Diocese provided \$652,591 in assistance to victims. This amount includes agreements reached, counseling and emergency assistance. The Diocese's total costs associated with clergy sexual abuse during July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020 (including assistance to individuals; Diocesan-wide training, education and prevention programs; legal and other professional services) were \$1,096,259.

*To view a list of all clergy found to have abused minors while in ministry, click here: [www.rcda.org/offenders](http://www.rcda.org/offenders)*



**Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany**  
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