



# DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Grand Jury Indicts Former Diocesan Comptroller**

The Jefferson County grand jury indicted former Diocese of Steubenville comptroller David A. Franklin, July 8, on seven counts.

The grand jury's charges include:

- Two counts of aggravated theft by control without consent
- Two counts of theft by deception
- One count of receiving stolen property
- One count of falsification
- One count of defrauding creditors.

The indictments allege Franklin failed to deliver the bequest of a last will and testament, in excess of \$150,000, to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. It also alleges Franklin received stolen property in order to pay himself more than \$150,000 in unauthorized bonus money and unauthorized compensation from 2004-2017.

Prosecutor Jane Hanlin said all seven county charges are third degree felonies and are separate from the charges that Franklin admitted to in federal court July 7.

The new diocesan chief financial officer uncovered irregularities in the finance department after Franklin retired in 2017 and Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton hired an independent firm to conduct a forensic audit. The Diocese of Steubenville self-reported missing payroll taxes that had been collected but never turned over to the IRS as well as local and state taxing agencies. The diocese also provided the Jefferson County Prosecutor's office with the results of the 2018 forensic audit and other information that initiated the criminal investigation which led the indictment of Mr. Franklin.

Franklin, who now resides in Independence, Kentucky, was diocesan comptroller from 1985-2017.

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