



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

14 August 2020

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With profound shame and abiding sadness for all who have been victimized by priests within what is now the Diocese of Lexington, I present the following listing of priests accused of the abuse of minors which is part of a fuller report being prepared by Attorneys Allison Connelly and Andrew Sparks after nearly twenty months of reviewing the files of every priest who has served in the territory of the diocese and all reports of abuse of minors made to the diocese since its founding.

I, along with every priest in the Diocese of Lexington, am very sorry for what this report describes and apologize to every person who has ever been abused or injured in any way by one who was ordained to represent Christ and minister Christ's sacramental and healing presence to his flock. It is an indescribable horror to so misrepresent Jesus who laid down his life for the sheep.

The process of the review of files was begun in December 2018. The two attorneys who conducted the research for this report did this in addition to their regular responsibilities: Allison Connelly as the Director of the Legal Clinic and the James and Mary Lassiter Professor of Law at the University of Kentucky and Andrew Sparks with the law firm Dickinson Wright PLLC. They have been most thorough and in many cases have gone above and beyond what was asked of them in outreach and investigation related to the abuse that has occurred.

The list of priests here is part of a larger report that will include history, context, methodology and recommendations by the reviewers. The list contained here has names in alphabetical order, divided into those with substantiated allegations (10), credible allegations (4), those who served in the territory of the Diocese of Lexington but were listed as credibly accused elsewhere (8) and unsubstantiated (1).

Of those listed, two of the priests are accused of abuse which has taken place since the creation of the Diocese of Lexington in 1988.

We continue to pledge to do all that we can to prevent any present or future abuse in the Church, and we also encourage anyone who has experienced abuse as a minor in the Church to contact the local authorities and make a report and we invite you to contact our diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator, Laura Napora, at 859-338-5695 or victimsassistance@cdlex.org.

Peace and all good,

+ John Stowe, OFM Conv.

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Bishop of Lexington