



## 45 Seacoast priests on child sex abuse list

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A former priest alleged to have sexually abused children in New Hampshire, his name made public for the first time this week, spent time at eight Seacoast churches or religious organizations between 1962 and 1986, according to new information released by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester.

In 2011, the Diocese received reports of abuse involving David Morley that allegedly took place more than 45 years ago, said Bevin Kennedy, spokesperson for the Diocese. The allegations were investigated “through the process we have in place and found to be probable.” Morley was laicized, or dismissed from the clerical state, in 1994 for reasons not having to do with sexual abuse of minors, Kennedy said.

Morley spent time at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Dover (assigned in 1962), St. Mary, Dover (1962), St. James, Portsmouth (1963), St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Dover (1966), St. Mary, Newmarket (1966), St. Joseph, Dover (1967), St. Thomas More parish, Durham (1972), University of New Hampshire, Durham (summer 1972), Holy Trinity, Somersworth (1973), St. James, Portsmouth (1977) and St. Thomas More, Durham (1986).

In what the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester is calling an effort to “provide further transparency,” on Wednesday it released an [online database](#) of 73 priests accused of sexually abusing children across New Hampshire. Of the 73 on the list, most made public in the past, 50 are deceased. Two names, Morley and Albert Burke (Burque), were released for the first time.

The list, which includes names of those accused since 1950, features 45 priests who served parishes in numerous Seacoast area communities, including Epping, Exeter, Dover, Durham, Hampton, Newmarket, Portsmouth, Rochester, Rollinsford and Somersworth.

Some of the cases have been concluded canonically (by laicization, dismissal, or sentence to life of prayer and penance) or criminally, while others are incomplete due to death. The Diocese of Manchester has paid more than \$28.5 million in financial compensation to victims, and more than \$360,000 for counseling services.

“This is meant as an act of ownership and accountability,” Bishop Peter A. Libasci said in a statement about the new website. “It is my hope that by making this information available, we are holding ourselves accountable to the evils of the past, and offering timely assistance, support and resources to those individuals and families who have been affected by the sexual abuse of a minor.”

In February 2002, the state attorney general’s office initiated a criminal investigation into the conduct of the Diocese of Manchester, its bishops and leaders regarding the manner in which the Diocese responded to allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by priests. Both parties entered into an agreement in December 2002 to resolve the investigation. The agreement provided that the attorney general’s office would release its investigative file to the public, which it did in March 2003. In addition, the agreement required mandatory reporting to the attorney general’s office, annual audits for a period of five years, and a diocesan office for handling matters involving sexual abuse of minors.

All names included on the newly consolidated list have been reported to the state attorney general’s office, the website states. The AG’s office responded to a request for comment Thursday by citing its completed investigation and adding “there are no additional investigations of the Diocese planned at this time.”

Frequently mentioned on the list as parishes some of alleged abusers were assigned to, both St. Charles in Dover and St. James in Portsmouth have since been torn down. Burke, who is now deceased and the case against him incomplete, began at St. Charles in 1919, returned in 1922, and then again in 1952 and 1960. In 1941, he was assigned to St. Mary in Rollinsford.

Kevin Collins, principal at St. Thomas Aquinas High School, where the accused Morley worked for two stints in the 1960s, said he had been alerted by the Diocese that the list was going to be released, but that Morley was a “new name”

for him. He noted he has only been at the school since 1994. He said he will be conferring with the Diocese on how the school should proceed with this new public information.

Father Andrew Nelson, of St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Mary Parishes, formerly Holy Trinity in Somersworth, said he plans to address the release of the list and the new information about Morley with his parish, where Morley was assigned in 1973.

“I’m very happy that the Diocese is putting the names in a very accessible place and in a complete format,” Nelson said. “I think that transparency is very important. It’s very important to have a conversation about sexual abuse as a culture, and the places it happens - in churches, schools, homes. The abuse that has happened is unconscionable.”

St. Thomas More in Durham directed press inquiries to the Manchester Diocese.

There is one case listed as “in process” -- Paul Stevens, who was assigned to Holy Trinity in 1974. Stevens abandoned ministry in 1987, Kennedy said. According to information included in public audit records released in 2009 by the state attorney general’s office, Stevens is alleged to have abused a 13-year-old boy in 1974 at his camp in Franconia, and a 16-year-old boy in 1976 at a hotel.

Nine priests included were assigned to Holy Rosary in Rochester between the 1960s and ’80s. Marni Spewock, director of communication for Holy Rosary, said they are eager to participate in any new efforts “designed to restore trust in our Catholic community and beyond.”

“While several of the priests mentioned in the published list have spent time at our parish, we are unaware of any current parishioners who may have been affected,” Spewock said. “We hope to provide a welcoming and safe place should a need arise to assist someone needing support, as well as keeping the conversation open about accountability, safety and healing... Our Lady of the Holy Rosary and St. Leo Parishes takes any past ministerial misconduct very seriously.”

Spewock said the Manchester Diocese has been “vigilant” in communicating with the faith community, while continuing a commitment to protecting minors and maintaining transparency “by offering parishes such as ours multiple training

opportunities and resources.”

Peter Hutchins, a Manchester lawyer, has represented more than 200 victims of sexual abuse by priests over the last 17 years, several of whom allegedly suffered their abuse at Seacoast churches. He named cases involving Joseph Maguire, who was convicted and now deceased, of Holy Trinity, St. Joseph in Dover and Franciscans in Kennebunk, Maine, and Gordon MacRae, who was convicted of sexual abuse of a child at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal in Hampton.

Hutchins has represented some victims out of St. Michael in Exeter and St. Thomas Aquinas, he said.

“The people keep coming forward,” Hutchins said, noting the explosion of revelations was between 2002 and 2009, but today, he actively represents four or five victims at any given time.

“The issue is how many are remaining, how many are still alive?” he said. Hutchins called the Manchester Diocese’s new database “a positive thing,” particularly from a survivor standpoint. “It gives them validation that they weren’t the only one, and the church is recognizing what these people are,” he said. “It helps with the situation where sometimes people think they brought it on themselves, or they did something wrong. I think it’s good for these institutions to fess up and come clean.”

Hutchins noted a few of his clients died by suicide after their cases were settled.

Zach Hiner, executive director of SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, said the Diocese’s latest presentation of information is an opportunity for the state attorney general’s office to open a new investigation.

“Not necessarily because there was anything done wrong in the first one, but because we’ve seen since there have been a lot of different strategies and tactics that churches have used to keep this from the public eye,” Hiner said. “This is another opportunity for the AG to say, ‘Look, we’ve done this before, let’s do it again. Let’s get more information in the hands of our citizens.’”

Hiner said it goes deeper than just identifying sexual abusers.

“When were the allegations received by officials and what steps were taken?” he said. “And when were the steps taken? We need to know just not about the abusers and the people who hurt people, but also those who may have enabled or covered up abuse.”

In a post-#MeToo movement world, Hiner said, “I do think another push towards these folks could result in more information and more of these stories coming to light.”

For information about how to report abuse by a bishop, priest, deacon, church employee or volunteer, visit [catholicnh.org/safety](http://catholicnh.org/safety).

**The list below shows which Seacoast area churches some of the 73 New Hampshire priests accused of child sex abuse were assigned to, including their current status and year assigned to that specific parish. “Laicized” means dismissed from the clerical state. Priests assigned to “a life of prayer and penance” are permanently restricted from all forms of public ministry and may not wear clerical attire or publicly identify themselves as priests.**

### **Holy Rosary, Rochester**

Paul Aube - Laicized - assigned 1976

Roger Fortier - Laicized - assigned 1984

Eugene Pelletier - “assigned to a life of prayer and penance,” deceased - assigned 1961, 1982

Roland Tancrede - “assigned to a life of prayer and penance,” deceased - assigned 1954

Albert Boulanger - Deceased - assigned 1989

Alfred Constant - Deceased - assigned 1918

Harvey Lamothe - Deceased - assigned 1967

Edmond J. Lemire - assigned 1958

**St. Martin, Somersworth**

Gerald Chalifour - "assigned to a life of prayer and penance" - assigned 1952

Joseph Cote - "assigned to a life of prayer and penance" - assigned 1957

Eugene Pelletier - "assigned to a life of prayer and penance," deceased - assigned 1963

Albert Boulanger - Deceased - assigned 1967

Gregoire Dumont - Deceased - assigned 1962, 1965

**St. James Portsmouth**

John Nolin - Laicized - assigned 1969

David Morley - Laicized - assigned 1963, 1977

Albert Boulanger - Deceased - assigned 1969

John Nolin - Laicized - assigned 1969

**St. Charles, Dover**

Gerald Chalifour - "assigned to a life of prayer and penance" - assigned 1987

Raymond Laferriere - "assigned to a life of prayer and penance" - assigned 1991

Charles Authier - Deceased - assigned 1964

Gerard Beaudet - Deceased - assigned 1953

Albert Burke (Burque) - Deceased - assigned 1919, 1922, 1952, 1960

Edouard Duval - Deceased - assigned 1961

Conrad LaForest - Deceased - assigned 1973

Maurice Leclerc - Deceased - assigned 1939

**St. Joseph, Epping**

Ronald Corriveau - Laicized - assigned 1985

**St. Charles Children's Home, Rochester**

Robert Densmore - "assigned to a life of prayer and penance" - assigned 1985

**Our Lady of Miraculous Medal, Hampton**

Gordon MacRae - Convicted - assigned 1982

George Robichaud - Deceased - assigned 1979

Stephen Scruton - Laicized; deceased - assigned 1960

**Holy Trinity, Somersworth**

Joseph Maguire - Convicted, deceased - assigned 1973

Paul Stevens - Absent from ministry - assigned 1974

David Morley - Laicized - assigned 1973

Karl Dowd - Deceased - assigned 1963

Gerald Joyal - Deceased - assigned 1955

John J. Sullivan - Deceased - assigned 1968

Leo Landry - assigned 1967

**St. Joseph's Dover**

Joseph Maguire - convicted, deceased - assigned 1974

Russell Neighbor - Deceased - assigned 1960

David Morley - Laicized - assigned 1967

**St. Mary, Newmarket**

John Nolin - Laicized - assigned 1960

Roland Tancrede - "assigned to a life of prayer and penance," deceased - assigned 1963

David Morley - Laicized - assigned 1966

Karl Dowd - Deceased - assigned 1968

Gerald Joyal - Deceased - assigned 1949

Edward Zalewski - Deceased - assigned 1966

### **Portsmouth Regional Hospital**

Philip Petit - Laicized - assigned 1985

### **Immaculate Conception, Portsmouth (residence)**

Philip Petit - Laicized - assigned 1985

### **Immaculate Conception, Portsmouth**

Denis Downey - Deceased - assigned 1946

### **St. Mary, Rollinsford**

George Robichaud - Deceased - assigned 1993

Silvio Beaudet - Deceased - assigned 1969

Harvey Lamothe - Deceased - assigned 1979

Russell Neighbor - Deceased - assigned 1961

### **St. Thomas Aquinas High School**

David Morley - Laicized - assigned 1962, 1966

Roland Veillette - Deceased - assigned 1960

Karl Dowd - Deceased - assigned 1962, 1965

### **St. Mary, Dover**



David Morley - Laicized - assigned 1962

Wilfred Houle - Deceased - assigned 1976

Francis McMullen - Deceased - assigned 1944

Rocco Memolo - Deceased - assigned 1979

John J. Sullivan - Deceased - assigned 1967

John T. Sullivan - Deceased - assigned 1943

### **St. Thomas More, Durham**

David Morley - Laicized - assigned 1972, 1986

### **University of New Hampshire**

David Morley - Laicized - assigned 1972

### **St. Anne Home, Dover**

Gerard Beaudet - Deceased - assigned 1976

Marcel Genereux - assigned 1966

### **St. Michael, Exeter**

Richard Connors - Deceased - assigned 1969

Rocco Memolo - Deceased - assigned 1976

Edward Zalewski - Deceased - assigned 1959

### **St. Charles Orphanage, Rochester**

Denis Downey - Deceased - assigned 1949

Paul Vadeboncoeur - Deceased - assigned 1966

### **St. Mary, Rochester**

Gerald Joyal - Deceased - assigned 1959

Hubert Mann - Deceased - assigned 1968

**Lady Isle, Portsmouth**

Hubert Mann - Deceased - assigned 1942

**St. Matthew, Portsmouth**

Hubert Mann - Deceased - assigned 1953

# Your reaction to NH priests accused of abuse

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If you would like to comment about the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester releasing a list of 73 priests accused of sexually abusing children, please share your thoughts here. A reporter may contact you for an interview.

Your answer

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