

DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

P.O. Box 3223

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My dear Faithful of the Diocese of Lake Charles,

With this letter, I am publishing the list of clergy who have served in the Diocese of Lake Charles since its establishment in 1980 and against whom credible accusations of sexual misconduct with a minor have been made. In doing so, my heart is heavy as I realize that each detail represents serious harm done to an innocent victim and the breaking of a sacred trust between clergy and laity. As I have stated numerous times before but wish to repeat again, our concern remains for the victims of sexual abuse. We encourage anyone aware of such abuse to make it known to the civil authorities and our Victims Assistance Coordinator or the Vicar General of the Diocese (337-439-7400). We have reached out to the victims in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

A prefatory comment on the list is needed. First, because until 1980 the five civil parishes of the Diocese of Lake Charles were part of the Diocese of Lafayette and under the supervision of ecclesiastical authorities in Lafayette, any allegation received by the Diocese of Lake Charles regarding conduct prior to 1980 was referred to the Diocese of Lafayette. Because of this, there may be overlapping of this list and any list issued by the Diocese of Lafayette. Second, the standard operating procedure of the Diocese of Lake Charles has been to keep current with its obligations under the law to address each such report. The Diocese of Lake Charles cooperates fully with the civil authorities and have remained in regular correspondence with them in matters dealing with criminality. Third, since the issuance of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in 2002, the Diocese of Lake Charles has followed the mandated protocols for reporting to civil authorities and

addressing allegations. Fourth, to insure transparency our files and archives were opened to an *ad hoc* Review Board comprised of a retired judge, a retired sheriff, and an attorney who were tasked with compiling a list. Applicable law determined inclusion on the list. The *ad hoc* Review Board was provided resources necessary to complete their work, including consultation with a canon lawyer.

The *ad hoc* Review Board forwarded their findings to me. I have adopted their list for publication. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to them all for their difficult work, expertise, and dedicated service.

As noted in the report of the *ad hoc* Review Board and confirmed by my own investigation, I can state that there is no one in ministry in the Diocese of Lake Charles against whom any complaint of sexual misconduct with a minor exists today.

May the victims of sexual abuse receive healing to bring them peace of mind and tranquility of soul. May our Heavenly Father have mercy on us. May He also guide us through a deeper appreciation for the chastity and purity that should govern our lives.

Trusting always in the mercy of Christ, I remain

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Glen John Provost" with a cross symbol to the left of the first letter.

✠Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles