A “Predator Priest Tour” of St. Louis’ central corridor
Introduction

We’ve long maintained that the St. Louis archdiocese has a higher percentage, relatively speaking, of publicly accused priests than most dioceses.

We compared this archdiocese to ten others of similar size, ranging from 630,000 Catholics to 488,004 Catholics. St. Louis has 575,000 Catholics.

Stats provided by BishopAccountability confirm our suspicions. (The number of accused priests is in second column.)

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<th>City</th>
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<td>San Jose</td>
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<td>Joliet</td>
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<td>Fresno</td>
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<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>New Orleans</td>
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NOTE:

• More than a year ago, under a court order, archdiocesan officials turned over to a victim’s attorney “an anonymous matrix of 240 complaints against 115 church employees over a 20-year period ending in 2003.”

At the insistence of Archbishop Robert Carlson’s lawyers, those names are sealed. But those numbers begin to give a sense of how widespread clergy sex crimes against kids have been in this archdiocese.¹

• And we should note that BishopAccountability.org has 54 publicly accused St. Louis archdiocesan predator priests on its list. (All clerics in this “tour” have been publicly accused.)

That doesn’t count the predators who haven’t been caught, whose identities remain hidden, who preyed on older teens or young people who were technically, according to the law, “adults.”
Tour Stop 1

Start at the Missouri Athletic Club, where Fr. James Gummersbach worked out daily during a civil trial at which he was accused of repeatedly molesting Hank Bachmann during Hank’s childhood. (Fr. Gummersbach’s lawyer told the judge that the priest was too ill to attend.) This was St. Louis’ only civil clergy sex abuse/cover-up trial. A jury awarded Bachman $1+ million, later reversed on the SOL.
Fr. James Gummersbach
(no photo available)

He also worked at parishes in Rolla, Union, St. Ann, Ladue, Flat River, Bismarck, Richmond Heights, St. Louis and two hospitals (St. Louis Children's Hospital and Deaconess).
Tour Stop 2

The Old Cathedral, where at least three predators worked:

- Fr. Thomas Graham (1970s)
- Fr. Michael L. Seidel (late 1990s)
- Fr. Alexander P. Lippert (1980)
- NOTE: Lippert was exposed as a predator last year.
Fr. Alexander Lippert  
(no photo available)

Fr. Michael Seidel  
(no photo available)

Fr. Thomas Graham
Tour Stop 3

Just blocks away is **Busch Stadium**, where Chicago perpetrator Fr. James Ray, after he’d been accused of abuse, came to see a Cardinals game in 2004.

- A local predator priest, Fr. Michael S. McGrath, also took kids to Cards’ games.
Tour Stop 4

St. John Nepomuk, 1625 S. 11th St.

• Fr. James Pavlik (who abused Miguel Pratt of Texas) worked here. He passed away recently.

• Pavlik also worked at two other city parishes (St. Mary Magdalen and Most Holy Trinity) and five other area churches: Assumption in Herculaneum; St. John's in Imperial; Assumption in O'Fallon, Mo.; Sacred Heart in Ozora (in St. Genevieve County); and, most recently, Holy Martyrs of Japan in Japan in Franklin County.
Fr. James Pavlik
Tour Stop 5

Sts. Peter & Paul in Soulard, 1919
S. 7th St.

• Fr. Bruce Forman now works there (who allegedly abused Steve Pona). In 2002, both the New York Times and the St. Louis Post Dispatch reported the accusations against Forman in front page stories. He also heads the Young Catholic Musicians.
Fr. Bruce Forman
Tour Stop 6

Look South --- St. Francis DeSales Church at Gravois near Jefferson

- Fr. Michael S. McGrath (who abused Christopher Klump)
- Sr. Judith Fischer (who abused Anne Gleason)
Fr. Michael S. McGrath

Sr. Judith Fischer
Tour Stop 7

Look further south – **3140 Meramec – Franciscans Headquarters**

- Fr. Henry Willenborg and Fr. Thomas D. Gardner (recently “outed” in MN) spent time here.
Tour Stop 8

Dominican Priory, 3120 Lafayette Ave.

- Fr. Joseph Jiang is living here now, despite facing allegations of molesting a Lincoln County girl (in a pending civil case) and a St. Louis city boy (in a pending criminal case). We’ve repeatedly urged Catholic officials to put him in remote, secure facility. (He’s just 2.5 miles from the parish where he met both of his victims.)
Fr. Joseph Jiang
Tour Stop 9

Look North – Central Catholic School

- Fr. Thiel, a Redemptorist priest, worked here. (A decade ago, Sr. Gail, the principal, told us she’d help us do outreach to alumni, via a mailing. She later reneged, however.)

Fr. James Thiel
(no photo available)
Tour Stop 10

Look north to St. Alphonsus “Rock” Liguori Church, 1118 N. Grand Blvd.

- Fr. James Thiel & Fr. Maurice J. Nutt worked here. While serving on the Police Board, Nutt was accused of sexually harassing two officers and inviting one to “watch pornographic movies showing sex acts involving men and boys.” Nutt travels and speaks at Catholic groups and colleges across the US.
Fr. Maurice Nutt
Tour Stops 11 & 12

• Fox Theatre, 527 N. Grand Blvd.
• Powell Symphony Hall, 718 N. Grand Blvd.
  Where Fr. Donald Heck worked
Tour Stop 13

St. Pius V Catholic Church, 3310 S. Grand Blvd.
At least three predator priests worked here:

- Fr. Alex R. Anderson
- Fr. Michael S. McGrath
- Fr. Thomas Graham
Tour Stop 14

St. Joseph’s Home for Boys, 4753 S. Grand Blvd.

- Fr. Alex Anderson abused Art Andreas here. (Art was paid a $22,000 settlement.) Two other boys accused Anderson of molesting them. (None of the three know one another.) Church officials don’t find any of them “credible.” So Fr. Anderson is a pastor today at St. Rose of Lima Parish in DeSoto, MO.
Fr. Alex Anderson
Tour Stop 15

Council Towers Apartments, 310 S. Grand Blvd.

• Fr. Donald Heck lived here. He was one of the first St. Louis priests to go to prison for child sex crimes. (Heck passed away just a few months ago.)

• Two other early offenders lived here too: Fr. Victor Frobas and Fr. James Funke.
Fr. Donald Heck

Fr. James Funke
Tour Stop 16

St. Louis University, 1 N. Grand Blvd.
A long list of predator priests lived or worked here, including the ex-president of the school, Fr. Daniel O’Connell (who allegedly preyed on at least a teenaged girl who was not technically a minor).


Naughton's presence at SLU had never been publicly disclosed until SNAP did so in April 2014. In February, Stolzman was “outed” in Minnesota, making him the most recent SLU predator to be exposed. (See MPR.org)

At least one of these clerics is still in St. Louis (O’Connell) and one is a fugitive (Duran).
• Three SLU offenders admitted their crimes (Bryce, Becker and Lehmkuhl). Five are deceased (Lehmkuhl, Slowey, Gaiter, Beutner and Naughton). One (Duran) is believed to be a fugitive from the law.

• Incidentally, the most prolific of these predators was Fr. Campbell, a Jesuit who was sent to Colorado. (He abused Kevin O’Connor.) In 2003, church officials admitted that 13 of his victims had stepped forward. He also taught at SLU High School across from Forest Park.
Fr. Charles Miller
Fr. Gerhard Lehmkuhl
Fr. Chester Gaiter
Tour Stop 17

Aquinas Institute of Theology, 23 S. Spring Ave.

- Fr. Vincent W. Bryce now works at the Aquinas Institute (across the street from SLU), despite his having told his Catholic supervisors in Michigan that he had molested at least one child. He belongs to the Dominican order and lives across the street from SLU at Jesuit Hall (corner of Grand and Lindell).
Fr. Vincent Bryce
Tour Stop 18

Cardinal Ritter College Prep HS, 701 N. Spring Ave.

• Fr. Freymuth worked here. And as a boy, Charles Spearman was abused here by Fr. James Thiel, Fr. Michael O. Barry, Fr. Chester "Chet" Gaiter and Fr. Thaddeus Posey. (Posey also worked in Kansas City and St. Paul MN.)
Rosati-Kain High School, 4389 Lindell Blvd.

- Fr. Bryan Kuchar worked there. He was found guilty of molesting a boy in south county. After completing his sentence, he worked at Starbucks in St. Charles County and now works at a casino in the city. A pending lawsuit charges that one of his victims committed suicide.
Fr. Bryan Kuchar
Tour Stop 20

Cathedral Basilica, 4431 Lindell Blvd.
Where at least five predator priests have worked: Fr. James Jiang, Fr. James L. Gummersbach, Fr. James J. Pavlik, Fr. Chester E. Gaiter and Fr. Bryan M. Kuchar.

- All but Gaiter are alive and believed to be in the St. Louis area.
- The only convicted US prelate (Bishop Robert Finn) also worked there.
Fr. Joseph Jiang
Fr. James Pavlik
Fr. Chester Gaiter
Fr. Bryan Kuchar
Tour Stop 21

The Marianists – 4425 W. Pine Blvd.

- Fr. Robert Osborne spent time here. He was accused of molesting two boys in 2006 but was still saying mass as recently as 2008. One civil suit against him settled.
- (Also, Fr. O’Connell from SLU lived here.)
Fr. Robert Osborne

Fr. Daniel O'Connell
(no photo available)
Tour Stop 22

Visitation-St. Ann’s Shrine, 4515 Evans Ave.

- Where we caught Fr. Freymuth living after suspension
- Milwaukee predator Fr. Michael Krejci worked here in the late 1990s, having been sent to St. Louis for “treatment.” (His therapist wrote that he "acted out on a number of times in St. Louis."
Fr. Michael Freymuth
Tour Stop 23

St. Cronan Church, 1202 S. Boyle Ave.
Fr. Joseph D. Ross worked here as recently as 2002. That was after he’d been convicted of sex offenses. (He’s allegedly “missing” but was last known to be in St. Charles MO and, before that, in Arkansas.)

• Fr. Freymuth was also found working here after he’d been suspended for credible clergy sex abuse allegations.
Fr. Joseph D. Ross

Fr. Michael Freymuth
Tour Stop 24

St. Louis Children’s Hospital, 1 Childrens Pl.

- Where Fr. James Gummersbach was chaplain in here. (St. Louis Review, 6/17/94 Abuse Allegations Target Archdiocese by Joseph Kenny)
Tour Stop 25

Barnes-Jewish Hospital, 1 Barnes Jewish Hospital Plaza

• Where Fr. Robert Yim was chaplain in the 1990s. Several civil abuse and cover up lawsuits against him and archdiocesan officials have settled. He’s been defrocked and his whereabouts are unknown.
Fr. Robert Yim
Tour Stop 26

St. Ambrose on the Hill, 5130 Wilson Ave.

- Where in 2012, a seminarian, Nicholas Pinkston (a.k.a. R.A. Manfir) pled guilty to child porn possession.
- Fr. Nicholas Voelker of Wichita, KS, was quietly sent here – and was working here as recently as 2005, after he was accused of twice sexually assaulting a parishioner, Peggy Warren.

Voelker’s Kansas parishioners were told he was sent to Missouri for health reasons while his St. Louis parishioners were told he was here to go to school.

Church officials in neither diocese warned parishioners or the public about at least two predators here.
Tour Stop 26 (continued)

- In 2005, Warren received a substantial settlement from church authorities because of the assaults.
- Fr. Darell Mitchell of Spokane, WA, was quietly sent to work here after he’d been caught with photos of naked boys on his computer. He also worked at St. Joseph parish in Clayton.
- Fr. Andrew Pinsent from England worked here. He’s not a predator, as best we can tell. But he left the country before he could face criminal charges of assaulting Barbara Dorris one Sunday morning as she handed leaflets to parishioners on the public sidewalk outside St. Ambrose.
Tour Stop 27

- Fr. Thomas C. Cooper worked here. In a civil case against Cooper, Archbishop Robert Carlson successfully used an unusual defense: since Cooper molested young Paul Alvino at a riverside cabin that was owned by the priest, not by the church, the archdiocese could not be held responsible.

  Archdiocesan staffers admit that Fr. Cooper molested kids and that despite this, they continued to assign him to parishes where he hurt others.
Tour Stop 28

Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 5020 Rhodes Ave.
At least three credibly accused predators worked here:
- Fr. Louis Kertz
- Fr. Michael A. Campbell
- Fr. Gary Wolken
  At the time allegations against the latter two surfaced, they were living with then-Bishop Timothy Dolan (who now heads the New York City archdiocese).
Fr. Michael Campbell
(no photo available)

Fr. Gary Wolken
Tour Stop 29

St. Louis Behavioral Medicine Institute, 1129 Macklind Ave.

“Helping treat child and adult mental health in St Louis since 1995.”

• Many out-of-state predators were here: Evansville’s Fr. William A. Traylor, Chicago’s Fr. Robert P. Bowman, West Virginia’s Fr. Victor Frobas and Milwaukee’s Fr. Michael Krejci.

• As recently as 2013, the Capuchins have sent predators here.
Tour Stop 30

Deaconess Hospital, Oakland Ave.

- Fr. James Gummersbach worked here in the mid-1990s.
Tour Stop 31

Forest Park Hospital, 6150 Oakland Ave.

- Joliet’s Fr. Fred Lenczycki worked here in the early 1990s. (He also worked in Bridgeton.) He was perhaps the first US priest to be designated (and held behind bars longer) as a “sexually violent predator.”
ALSO: A number of predator priests here are or were in chaplain positions.

- Fr. J. Anthony Meis, also from Joliet, who was at St. Anthony's Medical Center in south St. Louis County. (no photo available)

- Fr. Thomas Graham worked at a nursing home in south St. Louis County.

- Fr. Irving “Jack” Klister of Superior Wisconsin worked at St. Vincent's Hospital in Normandy.

- Fr. Michael O’Connor Berry was a teacher and, at some point, a hospital chaplain in St. Louis. He was accused in a 2004 lawsuit of having sexually abused a student at a St. Louis Jesuit high school from 1982-1985. Barry died in 1987.
Tour Stop 32

2.8 miles south is **St. Joan of Arc Parish Church, 5800 Oleatha Ave.**

- Fr. Romano Ferraro worked in the 1980s. He’s in prison for life in Massachusetts for abusing a Massachusetts child, crimes that happened before he was sent here by the Brooklyn Bishop Anthony Bevalaqua. Two kids who report being molested by him here filed and settled civil suits.

Fr. Freymuth and a Chicago predator were here too (see later slide)
Tour Stop 32 (continued)

- Earlier this year, we learned – through records released by victim’s attorney Jeff Anderson – that Chicago’s Fr. Robert Peter Bowman was sent to St. Joan of Arc around 2001.
- It’s also the home parish of Fr. John Whiteley, a St. Louis native who ended up in the Jefferson City diocese, where he molested several kids including four brothers in the Clohessy family.

Fr. Robert Peter Bowman
Fr. Michael Freymuth

Fr. Romano Ferraro
Tour Stop 33

Four miles south is Bishop DuBourg High School, where:

• Fr. Alfred J. Fitzgerald worked in the late 1970s. In 1996, a woman alleged that he abused her when she was a high school student and went to him for counseling. Settled for $25K and written apology from him. He was placed on medical leave. The archdiocese wanted to return him to duty in 1999 but a woman protested and they did not. In 2005, he was living at Regina Cleri Retirement Home in Shrewsbury.
• Fr. Michael S. McGrath worked here in the 1990s. One woman says he molested her here.

• So did Fr. James A. Funke, who was sentenced in 1987 to ten years in prison after pleading guilty to ten counts of second-degree deviate sexual assault for molesting two boys at the school. An abusive teacher, Jerome Robbins, also worked here.
Tour Stop 34

St. Raphael the Archangel parish on Jamieson in south city

• Fr. James Patrick Grady worked there. In 2010, he pled guilty to arranging to meet and pay a 16 year old girl for sex.

• Fr. Michael Campbell, Fr. Alex Anderson, and Fr. Joseph Monahan (the latter from Philadelphia) worked here too.
Fr. James P. Grady

Fr. Alex Anderson
(no photo available)

Fr. Joseph R. Monahan
(no photo available)

Fr. Michael Campbell
(no photo available)
Tour Stop 35

Less than two miles north is St. Roch’s Parish, where:

• Just weeks after he was suspended due to abuse reports, Fr. Michael A. Campbell appeared on the altar here, in violation of church policy. It’s also where Barbara Dorris worked and saw Fr. Paul Rothchild molest kids.
Tour Stop 36

½ mile west from St. Luke’s is 1433 Hawthorne Pl., the current home of:

- Fr. Michael S. McGrath, the most widely-sued predator priest in St. Louis, who faced more than 20 accusers. (At least 18 civil suits against him have settled.) He often drove vans and took kids out to ball games and for ice cream.
Tour Stop 37

1/2 miles west is also the St. Louis Consultation Center, 1100 Bellevue Ave., where perpetrators are/were treated.

• In February we learned that Doug Perlitz was there. He’s a Connecticut Catholic layman who molested kids in Haiti.
• Dubuque’s Fr. Timothy DeVenney, Chicago’s Fr. Thomas Swade, St. Louis’ Fr. Norman Christian, Milwaukee’s Fr. John A. O’Brien and Fr. Franklyn Becker were there.