

1. How did Fr. Hermley with previous allegations of child sexual abuse get to be assigned to OLGC?

Response from Oblates: He was assigned to OLGC from 1982-1991, which was prior to the 2002 charter process. No allegations were reported while he was assigned at OLGC. Further information may be found on the Oblate website: <http://www.oblates.org/healing>

Robert Hermley (Deceased) - Born 1927, ordained 1955, died 2009. Assignments: Catholic University, Washington, DC, 1946; North Catholic High School Philadelphia, PA, 1948; Catholic University, Washington, DC, 1950; De Sales Hall, Washington, DC, 1955; St. Francis de Sales Toledo, OH, 1956; Fr. Judge High School, Philadelphia, PA, 1966; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Seaside Heights, NJ, 1978; Padua Academy, Wilmington, DE, 1980; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Vienna, VA, 1982; St. Mary's Parish, Fredericksburg, VA, 1991; Seton Home School (chaplain), Arlington, VA, 1992; Little Sisters of the Poor (chaplain), Newark, DE; 2001; retired 2003; DeSales Center, Childs, MD, 2003-2009.

Response from Diocese: Fr. Hermley was assigned by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Provincial. The Diocese of Arlington did not have any knowledge or suspicion that would lead it to believe he was unfit for ministry. While Fr. Hermley served at OLGC, there were no allegations reported.

2. Oblates and child sexual abuse needs to be transparent.

Response from Oblates: The Oblates in 2012, promulgated a letter disclosing those Oblates who were accused of sexual allegations between 1955-1991. This letter and further information may be found on its website: <http://www.oblates.org/healing>

3. How to report abuse?

Response from Diocese: Bishop Burbidge and the Diocese has a firm commitment to take all credible accusations of sexual misconduct seriously. It has provided a step-by-step explanation of how to report sexual abuse on its website at: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection/How-to-Report-Sexual-Abuse/>

4. Has there ever been priest or deacon (or Church employee) against whom a substantiated claim of abuse has been serving in active ministry at OLGC? When and what was done? Do such individual(s) ever return to any ministry?

- **Response from Diocese:** The Diocese of Arlington does not allow any cleric, employee or volunteer with a substantiated claim of sexual abuse to serve in the Diocese of Arlington. These individuals are also not permitted to return to ministry at any time. See website for important notices regarding diocesan clergy and employees at: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection/#importantnotices>

5. Has there ever been priest or deacon (or Church employee) against whom a substantiated claim of abuse has been serving in active ministry in our Diocese? When and what was done? Do such individual(s) ever return to any ministry?

Response from Diocese: The Diocese of Arlington, in an effort to be transparent and assist in the John Jay study, released in 2003 its credible allegations numbers since its founding as a Diocese in 1974. The Diocese reported 10

individuals credibly accused: six diocesan priests, three religious order priests, and one deacon. You can be assured that now, and since the promulgation of the Essential Norms and the 2002 Child protection Charter, any priest or deacon against whom there was a credible claim of abuse has been removed from ministry, and will not return. If a priest or deacon is serving in our Diocese today, or since the Charter, you can also be assured that there are no such claims against him.

6. Where/when in the process does abuse judged to be credible get reported to places where abuser might have had contact with children that might have been abused? Abuser's bad conduct is probably not limited to a particular victim that initially reports the abuse. Parents of potential victims will usually want to know if they need to have discussion with their children and maybe seek support. Unless specifically preclude by the law, transparency will help identify victims and avoid concerns about cover-up.

Response from Diocese: When an allegation of abuse meets the minimal initial threshold level of credibility necessary to justify further investigation, the priest or deacon is placed on administrative leave and all parishes where he served are notified. This notification is done within a matter of days – usually at Masses on the next upcoming weekend.

7. Since 2002, how many allegations been investigated by Diocesan Review Board?

Response from Diocese: The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People is required to publish the findings of its yearly audit of the past fiscal year. Each OPCYP Annual Report may be found at <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection/Annual-Reports/> which also discloses if there were any substantiated allegations for the prior fiscal year.

8. How many allegations have been substantiated?

Response from Diocese: We believe the Review Board has reviewed three substantiated claims against clerics since 2002.

9. It would be nice to know what numbers were like before 2002 and since to build confidence about how effective new systems are actually working. These answers help measure success or give clear metrics that would indict progress in preventing further scandals.

Response from Diocese: The Diocese of Arlington, in an effort to be transparent and assist in the John Jay study, released in 2003 its credible allegations numbers since its founding as a Diocese in 1974. The Diocese reported 10 individuals credibly accused: six diocesan priests, three religious order priests, and one deacon.

10. How is Diocese of Arlington addressing child sex abusers?

Response from Diocese: The question seems to be directed towards those individuals who are not clergy or employees. As a reminder, Commonwealth of Virginia law and Diocesan policy prohibits the hiring or admitting to volunteer service any individual that has been credible accused or convicted of child abuse. The crime of child abuse or neglect is a barrier crime in Virginia. Additionally, the Diocese complies with all state mandates

concerning convicted offenders which in some cases means that the individual may not come within 150 feet of a school or child care facility. Therefore, when an offender is revealed to the parish or Diocese, of which many are compelled by law to identify themselves to their houses of worship with their parole officer, a contract is established to dictate how, when, and where they may participate in liturgical celebrations. OLGC does not have any contracts for sexual offenders at this time.

11. Can the Diocese be confident that if there was a thorough investigation like what was done in Pennsylvania that it would not result in similar scandal?

Response from the Diocese: The Diocese of Arlington has voluntarily had two third-party investigations of its files, one in 2002 and a second in 2012. These investigations were commissioned to confirm that all priests and deacons serving in ministry have no credible allegations in their files. Bishop Burbidge, ensuring his own due diligence as the new Bishop of Arlington, has also asked for an additional investigation. Once this new investigation has been concluded a report will be forthcoming to the Diocese.

12. Who makes judgments of credible accusation of abuse (and/or cover-up) with the Diocese?

Response from Diocese: Bishop Burbidge and the Diocese has a firm commitment to take all credible accusations of sexual misconduct seriously. It has provided an explanation of how the Diocese handles allegations of sexual abuse on its website at: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection/How-the-Diocese-handles-allegations-of-sexual-abuse/>

13. Even if there is not prosecution by legal system, does Catholic Church treat credible accusation as guilty? Always?/Usually?/Rarely?

Response from Diocese: If an allegation is determined to be credible, the Diocese removes a priest or deacon from ministry even if there is no prosecution by civil authorities.

14. What support, if any, does Catholic Church provide to anyone who has credible accusation against them? Besides praying for victims, what is Catholic Church's responsibility (financial and other) to victims?

Response from Diocese: The Diocese has a website which outlines how to report abuse <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection/How-to-Report-Sexual-Abuse/>. Detailed information concerning this question may be found on the Diocesan website at <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection/How-the-Diocese-handles-allegations-of-sexual-abuse/>. To assist in answering this question, it would be helpful to say that the Diocese has no authority over the laity except whether or not they may participate in its programs. All clergy though, that have a credible allegation against them, are always encouraged to secure a civil and canonical lawyer to represent them. During the investigation, the Diocese does provide a minimal stipend to assist with insurance and ancillary costs since they are still under its care and may not be on Diocesan property. The Diocese does assist victim survivors with securing and continuing appropriate counseling services, spiritual guidance, and other service that may be found on the Diocesan Victim Assistance webpage: <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection/Counseling-and-Programs-for-Victim-Survivors-of-Sexual-Abuse-by-Clergy/>

15. Does Church have insurance to address potential costs?

Response from Diocese: Like all organizations, the Diocese is required to have insurance to address potential costs.

16. I am concerned that offerings that the OLGC parishioners make to benefit the people it serves may be channeled to pay for settling financial payments to victims/alleged victims in other churches. Is there a way to have better accounting of how the OLGC church collections are spent?

Response the Diocese: If and when a settlement is required for a victim, it is the Diocese that incurs the cost not the parish. The Diocese does provide a yearly financial report to ensure a transparent accounting of its finances.

Response from OLGC:

OLGC pays a small percentage of the weekly Offertory to the Diocese. This along with certain “services” assessments (like Catholic Herald) and the Bishop’s Lenten Appeal are our major contributions to the Diocese. The majority of Offertory is what funds our OLGC Community – facilities and activities. At this point, there has been no direct financial impact or fallout to Our Lady of Good Counsel from the issues of the past. And we pray there will be no impact in the future.

We have been asked by many parishioners of other ways to financially support the church and our community. We ask in the fall through our stewardship program for you to become an “intentional giver. Look at your annual income and then prayerfully and intentionally decide how you may share your Time, Talent and Treasures to the OLGC community. There are many specific projects and funds which your gifts can be restricted to, such as Pastoral Plan Projects, Memorial Gifts, Faith Formation, Youth Programs, Liturgy and Worship, Capital Improvements, and Strategic Initiatives like our all new **OLGC School Annual Fund** that includes Teacher Retention, Tuition Assistance and Special Needs. For more information please contact Tom White pastoralassociate@olgcv.org 703.896.7405 or Amy Schlanger development@olgcv.org 703.896.7424.

Additional Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the Diocesan website at https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Child-Protection/#ctl00_ContentPlaceHolder1_pnlFaq

OLGC Transparency for your information:

Former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick administered Confirmations at OLGC as Archbishop on November 7, 1997 (79 Confirmandi), as Cardinal on November 4, 2001 (108 Confirmandi) and November 11, 2005 (106 Confirmandi). The ordinary minister of Confirmation is the Bishop. Normally a Bishop administers the Sacrament so that there will be a clearer reference to the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. For after the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, they themselves transmitted the Spirit to the faithful through the laying on of hands. Thus the reception of the Holy Spirit *through the ministry of the Bishop* shows the close bond that joins the confirmed to the Church and the mandate received to bear witness to him before all. Former Cardinal McCarrick celebrated the sacrament of baptism at OLGC on March 22, 2014.

Former Bishop Michael J. Bransfield from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, WV celebrated baptism at OLGC on April 16, 2013, November 24, 2014, and September 1, 2018.