



# Diocese of Davenport

WALKING TOGETHER IN FAITH

*News*

*For Immediate Release*

**DATE:** November 3, 2008  
**FROM:** Deacon David Montgomery  
Diocese of Davenport  
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**RE:** Clergy accused of sexual abuse – additional information

The Review Board of the Diocese of Davenport has determined that the following clergy must be added to a list of those credibly accused of sexually abusing minors. They are: Joseph Hines, Eugene Smith, Lawrence Soens, and Gerald Stouvenel. Please see the attached chart for more information. A revised list has been posted on the Diocese's website: [www.davenportdiocese.org](http://www.davenportdiocese.org)

Msgr. Drake Shafer has been found not guilty of sexually abusing a minor by an independent three-judge panel of canon (Church) lawyers and confirmed by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican. Msgr. Shafer has been restored to active ministry and is awaiting assignment from Most. Rev. Martin Amos, Bishop of Davenport. The Diocese of Davenport will make every attempt to ensure that Msgr. Shafer's good reputation is restored in accordance with article 5 of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. "If the allegation is not proven, every step possible is to be taken to restore his good name, should it have been harmed." More information is available in a separate release, posted on the Diocese's website.

The Review Board recently found that allegations that Father Gerald Stouvenel sexually abused three male minors in the 1970's are credible. Bishop Amos sent the case to the Vatican in compliance with the laws of the Church for direction and handling of the matter. The Vatican has ordered Rev. Stouvenel to lead a life of prayer and penance. The Vatican determined that Rev. Stouvenel has cooperated actively with the ecclesiastical authorities and has led an exemplary priestly ministry over the past thirty years. Considering also the fact that he is presently living and assisting in a home for retired priests, the Vatican arrived at the conclusion that dismissal from the clerical state is not warranted in this case. Father Stouvenel will continue to reside at the headquarters of the Diocese and a monitoring program has been implemented.

The Review Board found that certain allegations of sexual abuse against Retired Bishop Lawrence Soens are credible. Then-Father Soens was accused of sexually abusing students at Iowa City Regina High School in the 1950's and 1960's when he was its Principal. He was also accused of sexually abusing a male minor when he was rector of St. Ambrose Seminary. The Review Board did not review all of the allegations against him because some claimants did not want their claims reviewed by the Board.

The Review Board has found that allegations of sexual abuse made against Father Martin Diamond are not credible. Father Diamond was accused of sexually abusing two male minors over 30 years ago. The Board reviewed testimony and medical records that were obtained during previous litigation against the Diocese. Information in the medical records contradicted the claims that Father Diamond was their abuser. Father Diamond passed away June 11, 1989. Because a deceased clergy cannot defend himself, allegations must be proved by "clear and convincing evidence". The Board determined that the evidence did not meet that standard.

Most of the cases have been heard by the Review Board. The Board is continuing to review some allegations that were first made in the bankruptcy process.



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Earliest Claimed Abuse	Name	Year of Death	Parish Assignments (other assignments not listed)	Dates	Year of Ordination	Comments
1949	Joseph Hines	1992	St. Wenceslaus, Iowa City	1945-1951	1945	Accused by 2 male minors and 2 female minors
			Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport	1951-1961		
			Ss. Mary & Joseph, Sugar Creek	1961-1967		
			St. Joseph, Columbus Junction	1967-1970		
			St. Mary, Lone Tree	1967-1970		
			Sacred Heart, Fort Madison	1970-1981		
1963	Eugene Smith		Ss. Mary & Matthias, Muscatine	1958-1959	1958	Accused by one female minor
			St. Mary, Clinton	1959-1959		
			Ss. Peter & Paul, Clear Creek	1959-1959		
			St. Mary, Ottumwa	1959-1961		
			St Mary, Keokuk	1961-1966		
1958	Lawrence Soens		St. Paul, Burlington	1950-1952	1950	Accused by 31 male minors
			St. Bridget, Victor	1954-1958		
			St. Bridget, Nolan Settlement	1961-1961		
			St. Patrick, Charlotte; Villa Nova	1975-1978		
			Assumption, Charlotte	1975-1978		
			St. Mary, Clinton	1978-1983		
1972	Gerald Stouvenel		Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport	1972-1975	1972	Accused by 3 male minors
			St. Mary, West Point	1977-1980		
			St. Joseph, Montrose	1980-1981		
			St. James, St. Paul	1981-1983		
			St. Mary, West Point	1983-1991		
			Church of the Visitation, Camanche	1991-1994		
			St. Mary, West Burlington	1994-1999		
			St. Patrick, Burlington	1995-1999		
			St. Mary, Dodgeville	1995-2000		
			Ss. Mary & Patrick, W. Burlington	1999-2007		
			St. Mary, Dodgeville	2004-2007		
			St. Joseph, Montrose	2007-2007		
			Sacred Heart, Fort Madison	2007-2007		
Ss. Mary & Joseph, Fort Madison	2007-2007					