

2019 CARA SURVEY
SUMMARY OF DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

The following data represents credible ¹ reports received during the period of time July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 alleging sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons of the Diocese of Manchester.² This data was reported to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA).

Under diocesan policy, all reports of sexual abuse of a minor by Church personnel are reported to the Office for Ministerial Conduct. The Delegate for Ministerial Conduct informs Bishop Libasci and the Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General of every report received, regardless of when the abuse occurred or whether the report has the semblance of truth. When Bishop Libasci determines that there is a “semblance of truth” to a report, he immediately provides for the pastoral care of the complainant. The Diocese of Manchester cooperates with the civil authorities in any investigations. The bishop initiates a preliminary investigation in accordance with Church law when cleared to do so by law enforcement. If the accused is alive, the bishop places the accused person on precautionary leave pending the conclusion of the preliminary investigation.

The Church investigation is conducted using a professional lay investigator. For cases involving living clerics, all investigative material is provided to the Diocesan Review Board along with a recommendation from the Delegate for Ministerial Conduct and the investigator as to whether or not the allegations are “probable.” The Diocesan Review Board then advises the Bishop of its findings regarding the probability of the report and makes a recommendation concerning the accused person’s suitability for ministry. As required by Church law, Bishop Libasci forwards to the Holy See all reports of sexual abuse of a minor against priests or deacons that have the semblance of truth, along with his recommendation for a final disposition.

During the time period July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019, the Diocese of Manchester received additional reports not noted below because they do not fit the criteria set forth by CARA. In addition to the information below, the Diocese of Manchester received seven (7) reports that are currently being investigated, all of which involve alleged abuse that took place decades ago. These seven reports involve three (3) named priests [two (2) of whom are deceased and one (1) who is permanently restricted, all of whom were previously found to have sexually abused minors]; and three (3) unnamed priests. During this 2018-2019 time period, the Diocese of Manchester also received ten (10) additional reports involving allegations of sexual abuse by priests who are either deceased or dismissed from the clerical state that were not able to be proven as either credible or not credible. Also during this time period, the Diocese of Manchester concluded investigations into two (2) reports of sexual abuse by priests that were reported in prior years. Both of these reports were found to be credible. A third report from a prior year could not be determined as credible or not credible.

¹ “Credible” refers to an allegation that has been sufficiently substantiated by a preliminary investigation to bear a “semblance of truth.” In the case of a deceased perpetrator, the allegation is credible if it meets the criteria for forwarding the matter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

² Data involving clergy that are members of religious institutes is not reported in this document because that information is reported to CARA by the religious institutes.

All of these allegations were reported to the office of the New Hampshire Attorney General, and outreach services have been offered through the Office for Healing and Pastoral Care to those who reported being abused.

CREDIBLE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CLERGY 7/1/18-6/30/19³

Number of reports: **0**

Dates when reported abuse of a minor began:

1954 or earlier	0	1985-1989	0
1955-1959	0	1990-1994	0
1960-1964	0	1995-1999	0
1965-1969	0	2000-2004	0
1970- 1974	0	2005-2009	0
1975-1979	0	2010	0
1980-1984	0	Time period unknown	0

THOSE MAKING REPORTS

Victim Gender:	Male	0
	Female	0

Who made the report to the Diocese:

Complainant	0
Family member	0
Friend of victim	0
Attorney	0
Law Enforcement	0
Bishop or official from	
Another diocese	0
Other	0

Ages of complainant when reported abuse began:

0 – 9 years	0
10 – 14 years	0
15 – 17 years	0
Age unknown	0

THOSE NAMED IN REPORTS

Number of priests named: **0**

Deceased, already removed or laicized: **0**

Have had one or more previous allegations: **0**

Were returned to ministry following resolution of the allegations: **0**

³ Please note that the Diocese of Manchester received reports not noted with this data because they do not meet the criteria set forth by CARA. Please refer to the summary above for more information.

FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES

Since 2002, the Diocese has responded to hundreds of requests for financial settlements by survivors of child sexual abuse and has reported annually the total amounts of these settlements. In making any such financial disclosure, the Diocese complies with all requests by complainants that their identities and their individual settlement amounts not be disclosed to the public. Complainants are not asked by the Diocese to observe any disclosure restrictions.

During the time period covering July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, the Diocese entered into financial settlements with victims of sexual abuse by clergy for a total amount of **\$907,500**. Note that the settlement amount does not correlate with the number of individuals making reports in this time period. These settlements were related to reports made prior to July 1, 2018, and not all persons making reports request financial support to assist in healing. Financial settlements are paid from the Diocesan Insurance Fund. No parish, Catholic school, or other diocesan funds have been used to pay these costs.

In addition to the foregoing payments, during this time period, the Diocese paid **\$15,070** to independent mental health providers for services provided to survivors of sexual abuse. The Office for Healing and Pastoral Care coordinates this care.