

BISHOP'S OFFICE
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The following is a letter from Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger:

November 2020

"Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am writing to you today about Father Lawrence G. McTavey, who once served in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany.

After an extensive investigation into allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Father McTavey, the Diocesan Review Board has recommended that his name be added to the List of Offenders (www.rcda.org/offenders). I have accepted this recommendation.

Father McTavey died in 2019 at the age of 88. Born in Troy, he was ordained for the Diocese of Albany in 1955. Over the course of his priesthood, he served as assistant pastor at St. Peter the Apostle, Stillwater (1955); Sacred Heart, Troy (1956-57); and Blessed Sacrament, Albany (1958-67). He was pastor of St. Bernard's in Cohoes for 33 years (1973-2006), and after his retirement in 2007, he served at St. Mary's, Crescent, and Holy Trinity, Cohoes. He also taught religion at Catholic Central High School in 1957, and he served at Cardinal McCloskey Memorial High School in Albany from 1958 until 1972, first as vice principal and guidance counselor and later as principal.

My decision to add Father McTavey's name to our List of Offenders is in accordance with both the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and our own Albany Diocese zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse of children by clerics. We as a Church and as individual Catholics have a solemn moral responsibility to do all we can to ensure children are safe in every Catholic place, and we are committed to meeting that responsibility.

If you are aware of any abuse or misconduct involving any child, please contact a law enforcement agency right away. This is our diocesan policy, it is the right thing to do, and it is crucial to the protection of children. Our Albany Diocesan Assistance Coordinator is also available to help you at any time. His telephone number and contact information are available on the diocesan website: www.rcda.org/protectingchildren.

I thank you for your attention today. Please know that my most fervent prayers are with all of you in this difficult hour.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+Edward B. Scharfenberger

Edward B. Scharfenberger
Bishop of Albany