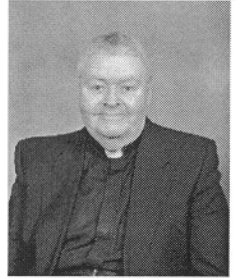




ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA PRIEST DATA PROFILE



Name: Address:
Rev. John A. Cannon
C/O Secretary for Clergy 222
North 17th Street
Philadelphia, P A 19103

Phone Number: (0)- 09/02/1922

Date of Birth :

CURRENT ASSIGNMENT(S)

PRIMARY POSITION(S)

Retired, Retired

DATE ASSIGNED

02/25/2004

ORDINATION, ECCLESIASTICAL HONORS

Status: Retired, Diocesan

Incardination: Philadelphia (PA)

Date of Ordination: OS/22/1948

Ordaining Bishop: Most Rev. J. Carroll McCormick

EDUCATIONAL DEGREES ATTAINED

Seminary /College/University

Date Completed

Academic Degree(S) Held: BS

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook

1944

TALENTS/HOBBIES/INTERESTS

Health Care Chaplaincy (Nursing Home)

Education Apostolate (High School)

Spiritual Direction

PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENTS

Previous Positions

Assistant Pastor, SS. Cosmas/Damian, Conshohocken
Faculty, High School, St. John Neumann High School, Phila
Faculty, High School, Roman Catholic High School, Phila
Asst. Super. of Schools, Office of Catholic Education
Assistant Pastor, St. Eugene, Primos
Faculty, High School, Cardinal O'Hara High School, Springfield
Chaplain, St. Joseph Home for Aged
Administrative Leave, (Administrative Leave)

Dates Assigned

06/1948 -09/1948
09/1948 -09/1958
09/1958 -06/1963
06/1963 -06/1965
06/1965 -06/1966
06/1966 -11/1985
11/1985 -11/2003
11/2003 -02/2004

Secondary Positions

Assistant Pastor, St. Andrew, Drexel Hill
Assistant Pastor, St. Agnes/ St. John Nepomucene, Phila
Chaplain, Villa Joseph Marie

Dates Assigned

06/1966 -09/1966
07/1982 -07/1982
11/1985 -11/2003

PREVIOUS BOARDS

Boards/C ommissions Council of
Priests

Dates Assigned

05/1967 -05/1970

CATALOGUE OF SEXUALLY ABUSIVE PRIESTS

PRIEST'S NAME	DATE OF ABUSE	DATE ARCHDIOCESE NOTIFIED	VICTIM OR INCIDENT	PRIEST'S ASSIGNMENT AT TIME OF ABUSE	ACTION TAKEN BY ARCHDIOCESE AFTER NOTIFICATION OF ABUSE	PRESENT STATUS OF PRIEST
Cannon John A. Ordained: 5-22-48	Early 1960s	7-5-64	5 male teenagers	- Faculty, Roman Catholic H.S., Philadelphia (9/58-6/63) - Residence, St. Monica, Philadelphia (9/58-6/63)	- The Archdiocese interviewed Rev. Cannon and he was ordered to "desist." - Rev. Cannon was transferred as Assistant Pastor to St. Eugene, Primos.	
	Late 1950s to early 1960s	July 1964	3 males	- Faculty, Roman Catholic H.S., Philadelphia (9/58-6/63) - Residence, St. Monica, Philadelphia (9/58-6/63)	- The Archdiocese interviewed Rev. Cannon and he was ordered to "desist." - Rev. Cannon was transferred as Assistant Pastor to St. Eugene, Primos.	
	Abuse began in 1958	11-2-92	Previously identified male victim contacts Archdiocese about his abuse	- Faculty, Roman Catholic H.S., Philadelphia (9/58-6/63) - Residence, St. Monica, Philadelphia (9/58-6/63)	- The Archdiocese interviewed Rev. Cannon. - Rev. Cannon underwent a psychological evaluation at the St. John Vianney Hospital in February 1993.	- Retired as of 2-25-04. - The Review Board found the allegations credible. - On 3-5-04, the Archdiocese found the allegations to be credible, imposed restrictions on Rev. Cannon's ministry and referred the case to the Vatican for review of laicization. - On 10-7-04, Rev. Cannon agreed to the removal of his priestly faculties, to forgo the Church penal process and to accept the imposition of a supervised life of prayer and penance.

Father John A. Cannon

Father John A. Cannon, ordained in 1948, molested teenage boys at a Church summer camp from 1959 through 1964. Eight boys reported the sexual abuse in 1964. Father Cannon admitted to some, but not all, of the sexual abuse. The Archdiocese responded by ordering the priest to “desist” and by transferring him to a different parish, with no restrictions on his conduct. In 1992, one of the priest’s victims contacted Archdiocese officials to report the continuing effect of Fr. Cannon’s abuse. The victim was assured that in cases such as Fr. Cannon’s, sexually abusive priests are removed from their present situation, evaluated and treated, and not allowed again to work with children.

That was not true in the case of Fr. Cannon. He failed to undergo treatment, yet Cardinal Bevilacqua allowed him to continue teaching at a girls’ school in Holland, Pa., until he retired in February 2004. In March 2004, following an Archdiocesan Review Board inquiry that found the reports of Fr. Cannon’s victims credible, the priest’s faculties were restricted.

The Archdiocese responds to Father Cannon’s abuse of teenage boys at a summer camp by transferring his residence.

On July 5, 1964, five boys – “Harry,” “Mario,” “Frank,” “Ralph,” and “Ted” – reported to priests at Saint Monica’s Church in Philadelphia that Fr. John Cannon had, a week earlier, sexually abused them in their cabin at a summer camp run by the church. The boys were 16 and 17 years old. They said that Fr. Cannon had come into the cabin in the middle of the night and “touched them sexually.” He molested one of them a second time on a different night. According to a report by Fr. Joseph Curran to the Chancery office, the boys told the priests that “such things have been happening for the past two to three years.” Father Curran wrote that he felt “many questions are left unanswered,” but that he did not want to “probe too deeply until seeking further counsel.” He stated that he and another priest who received the complaints, both of whom lived at Saint Monica’s rectory with Fr. Cannon, “believe entirely the statements of these boys.”

Also in July 1964, another priest living at Saint Monica, Fr. John Murphy, provided Chancery officials with a list of other boys who had reported being molested by Fr. Cannon at the church-run camp near Harrisburg. It was recorded that one boy, “Herbert,” had “sinned once and been solicited 15 times” in the summer of 1962. Another, “Arthur,” had been “solicited and sinned” during the summers of 1959, 1960,

1961, and 1962. A third, “Emmanuel,” was said to have stopped the priest’s “advances.” The boys reported that Fr. Cannon sometimes brought another priest, an order priest who taught at Reading Central High School, to the camp and that that priest “also has the same problem.” (Appendix D-28)

Father Cannon was questioned by then-Chancellor John Noone and, according to notes from the meeting, admitted “two incidents but only of masturbation.” An August 19, 1964, note in Archdiocese files records Fr. Cannon’s pastor, Msgr. Aloysius X. Farrell, reporting that “Fr. Cannon is still going to the camp,” and the Vice Chancellor, Thomas Welsh, ordering Fr. Cannon to “desist.” Monsignor Farrell asked that Fr. Cannon be moved to a different residence. In September 1964, Cardinal Krol assigned the priest to the rectory of Saint Gertrude in West Conshohocken.

Nine months later, Fr. Cannon was named assistant pastor at Saint Eugene parish in Primos. In 1966, he began teaching at Cardinal O’Hara High School in Springfield. Father Cannon was reassigned to become Chaplain at Villa Joseph Marie High School for Girls in Holland, and at Saint Joseph Home for the Aged in November 1985.

In 1992 a victim who first reported his abuse in 1964 again complains to the Archdiocese and receives false assurances.

On October 28, 1992, Herbert, one of the victims whose name had been in Fr. Cannon’s Secret Archives file since 1964, wrote to Cardinal Bevilacqua telling the Cardinal of his abuse and his years of suffering as a result. According to notes from a subsequent meeting with Secretary for Clergy William J. Lynn, Herbert said that Fr. Cannon had molested him and asked for “sexual favors” during the boy’s 7th- through his 9th-grade years. Monsignor Lynn told Herbert “that such priests are immediately removed from the situation and sent for evaluation and treatment.” He further promised Herbert that “they are never assigned where children are involved.”

Despite these assurances, Fr. Cannon never underwent treatment, even though, as Msgr. Lynn informed Cardinal Bevilacqua, an evaluation performed at Saint John Vianney Hospital in February 1993 called for “inpatient hospitalization.” Cardinal Bevilacqua, nevertheless, permitted Fr. Cannon to remain the chaplain at a girls’ high school for 10 more years. The report from Saint John Vianney stated: “He has a small

house on the property and enjoys the privacy it affords him. Although teaching was not a part of his assignment there, he has become involved with teaching three classes and doing some tutoring at the Girls' Academy on the grounds.”

Feeling that Msgr. Lynn had not believed his allegations in 1992, Herbert, in July 2002, sought help from the Bishop of Harrisburg, Nicholas Dattilo. Herbert now lived within that diocese, and Saint Monica's summer camp was located in the Harrisburg diocese as well. Bishop Dattilo called Msgr. Lynn on Herbert's behalf and the Secretary for Clergy promised to review the file again. Monsignor Lynn informed Cardinal Bevilacqua of Bishop Dattilo's call. He reported that legal counsel advised that there was “no legal liability in this situation,” and offered his own opinion that there was not “enough evidence to restrict [Fr. Cannon's] priestly service....” (Appendix D-29) Monsignor Lynn reached this conclusion despite Fr. Cannon's 1964 admission to two incidents of “masturbation” with boys and despite the fact that Herbert's 1992 allegation was corroborated by the 1964 report naming him as a victim. Cardinal Bevilacqua allowed Fr. Cannon to continue to minister at the school as well as the home for the aged.

In 2004, based on adverse findings by the Review Board, the Archdiocese finally restricts the faculties of Father Cannon, who has by then retired.

In November 2003, an investigator with the Archdiocese Review Board interviewed Herbert and found him “extremely credible.” Father Cannon repeated to the investigator the admission he originally made in 1964 – that he had molested boys at the camp. Elaborating on his 1964 admission, he told the investigator and Msgr. Lynn that he had abused three boys on two occasions, fondling their genitals when he thought they were sleeping. The Review Board also unanimously concluded that after fondling the boys Fr. Cannon guided their hands to his own genitals to have them masturbate him. Father Cannon retired in February 2004. On March 5, 2004, the Archdiocese restricted his faculties. The priest agreed in October 2004 to live “a supervised life of prayer and penance” at Villa Saint Joseph, a retirement home for priests.

Father Cannon appeared before the Grand Jury and was given an opportunity to answer questions concerning the allegations against him. He chose not to do so.

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY

St. Monica's Rectory
2422 S. 17TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA 45, PA.

Solicited by Father Cannon in the summer of 1962.

Sinned once but was solicited about 15 times. It occurred about 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning.

He first noticed this in Father Cannon in 1961. He did not report it out of fear of consequences.

Solicited once during his one week at camp in 1959 and sinned.

Solicited once during his one week at camp in 1960 and sinned.

The same in 1961.

In 1962, served as a Junior Counsellor and stayed a month at the camp. Solicited and sinned with him twice a week for this period of a month.

Father Cannon took groups of boys to the camp on Fridays and would return on Saturdays. sinned with him twice in 1959; twice in 1960, and twice in 1961.

The reason he did not report the misconduct that he lacked courage.

Solicited in 1960 during his two weeks at camp. He stopped his advances. This boy told a friend and the latter told mother. feels that it is known to many.

AD 000664

A letter sent to the Archdiocese on July 5, 1964 by Fr. John Murphy. The letter notifies the Chancellor of reports that Fr. Cannon is abusing several boys at St. Monica's summer camp. GJ-1960

D-28a

D-61

St. Annica's Rectory
2422 S. 17TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA 45, PA.

Served as a Junior Counsellor during the summer of 1960.
I was told by several boys of the misconduct.

He told of a recording made by Father Cannon describing
a boy masturbating.

I knew he had the problem. He said that
another Counsellor and all the Junior Counsellors know
about the misconduct.

He spoke of a Father Bennet, an order priest, who taught
at Reading Central High School but who has since been
transferred. Father Cannon brought him to the camp and
believes that he also has the same problem.

John Murphy

AD 000665

D-28b

D-62

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Office of: Secretary for Clergy

TO: Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua
FROM: Monsignor William J. Lynn
DATE: September 4, 2002
RE: Reverend John A. Cannon (1948)
Chaplain, Saint Joseph Home for Aged

Attached is a copy of my December 4, 1992 memorandum to you summarizing allegations of sexual abuse brought against Father John Cannon by [redacted]. Father Cannon denied the allegations but was cooperative with a psychological evaluation. Attached also is a copy of my February 8, 1993 memorandum summarizing the results of the evaluation. Father Cannon was 70 years old at the time. You did approve inpatient hospitalization at the time. The inpatient hospitalization never took place and I am at a loss as to why this never happened. No further complaints have been brought against Father Cannon. At the time [redacted] wanted a cash settlement which we refused.

Excerpts from these memos may be blocked out for attorney client privilege. I only have copies in our file. The Grand Jury has the original file.

On July 23, 2002, Bishop Dattilo called me to inform me that [redacted] who lives in Lancaster, had approached the Harrisburg Diocese. He went to Harrisburg because Saint Monica's Camp, the place where the alleged abuse took place, is in the Harrisburg Diocese. He told Bishop Dattilo that I had told him at the time that his allegations were not credible. Bishop Dattilo said that states he has a lawyer and all he wants is to be believed. I filled Bishop Dattilo in on previous demands.

[redacted] told Bishop Dattilo that Father John McCole could verify what he alleges. [redacted] had provided a different priest name before, who did not back up his allegations. I spoke to Father McCole. Father McCole took Father Cannon's place at the camp. Father McCole stated there were vague stories about Father Cannon but nothing specific. He stated that no one ever came to him and made specific allegations, but that there was talk that "Father Cannon was strange."

I told Bishop Dattilo I would review the file and make recommendations regarding the situation.

I met with Father Cannon on August 2, 2002 to inform him that these allegations have resurfaced. Father Cannon denied the allegations again. He stated that there was a problem at the camp with a group of Benedictines trying to start an agricultural school nearby. He said one of them had problems and came to say Mass for a time until he was let go. Father Cannon feels he may have been confused with this priest.

Father Cannon is 80 years of age and is assigned as Chaplain at Saint Joseph Home for Aged. He is willing to retire but would prefer to stay where he is. Even if he retires, I do not know if there is enough evidence to keep him from exercising his priestly ministry. He taught high school for 35 years and there are no allegations other than

AR25000017

A 2002 memo in which Secretary for Clergy Lynn suggests there is insufficient evidence to restrict Fr. Cannon's faculties, even though he had previously admitted molesting boys. The victim referred to in the memo (whose name is whited out) was one of the boys listed in Fr. Murphy's 1964 letter to the Archdiocese. GJ-1980

D-29a

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Office of: Secretary for Clergy

TO: Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua
FROM: Monsignor William J. Lynn *WJL*
DATE: September 4, 2002
RE: Reverend John A. Cannon (1948)
Chaplain, Saint Joseph Home for Aged

Page 2

I have consulted with legal counsel and there is no legal liability in this situation.

Since Father Cannon is open to retirement if suggested, I think it best to go that route. He is the oldest priest in active ministry at this time. However, I do not believe there is enough evidence to restrict his priestly service in retirement at this time. This might be a case that could be presented to the Review Board when it is established.

Recommendation:

That Father Cannon be asked to request retirement.

Approved
WJL
9/7/02

AR2S000018

D-29b

D-64