

NAME: Msgr. Francis Ackerson
DATE OF BIRTH: December 17, 1918.
DATE OF DEATH: August 11, 2002
ORDINATION: May 25, 1946

ASSIGNMENTS:

06/1946-09/1949	St. Patrick's Church, Newry, PA
09/1949-06/1961	St. John's and St. Mary's Church, Cresson, PA
06/1961-07/1970	Holy Trinity Church, Huntingdon, PA
07/1970-11/1972	Society for the Propagation of Faith, Chapel House, Loretto, PA
11/1972-01/1980	Immaculate Conception, Johnstown, PA
01/1980-09/1983	Most Holy Trinity, Huntingdon, PA
09/1983-10/1986	St. Joseph's Church, Williamsburg, PA
07/1994 - Unknown	Senior Priest status
1996 - Unknown	St. Michael's Church, Loretto, PA

Monsignor Francis Ackerson is alleged to have victimized a 15-year-old boy between 1955 and 1956. Ackerson engaged in oral and anal sex with the child at the St. Mary's Orphanage Building in Cresson, Pennsylvania. At that time, Ackerson was a parish priest at St. John's and St. Mary's Church, in Cresson, Pennsylvania.

The victim recalled an occasion where Monsignor Ackerson came into his room and got into the victim's bed claiming he had given his own bed to a weary traveler. Once in bed with the boy, Ackerson began to play with the child's penis. Ackerson then took the child's hand and forced him to touch Ackerson's penis. Monsignor Ackerson then performed oral sex on the 15-year-old boy.

The child refused to continue to have contact with Ackerson, but under pressure from his parents and Ackerson, he returned to the orphanage where Ackerson was to help teach him a trade. The boy locked his door which agitated Ackerson who entered the room anyway. Ackerson molested the child again and attempted to anally rape the boy until the boy threatened to call the orphanage housekeeper.

Struggling with the events and whether he should pursue a desire to become a monk the child reported these events to another priest, Father Jerome Pacello. Pacello told the boy "pray and go be a good monk, and not think of it again." Deeply conflicted, the victim was extremely upset and reported the incident to his parents who reported Ackerson's actions to Bishop Richard Guilfoyle. Guilfoyle was the Bishop of the

Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown from 1936 to 1957. The parents indicated they never received a response from Bishop Guilfoyle.

The life of this young victim was thrown into turmoil because of the actions of Francis Ackerson. He struggled to maintain relationships, had great difficulty trusting people, and contemplated suicide. Meanwhile, Ackerson continued in ministry as a priest in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown for decades.