

NAME: Fr. Peter Bodenschatz
DATE OF BIRTH: July 9, 1905
DATE OF DEATH: June 10, 1961
ORDINATION: June 10, 1933

ASSIGNMENTS: No documented record

"Don't cry. That's ok. What a sweet child you are." Father Peter Bodenschatz uttered those words to a crying 8th grader as he unzipped the boy's pants and fondled his penis. This child, an altar boy, had stayed after school one day a week to help count the children's Sunday school offertory collection. Throughout this and many other incidents of sexual child abuse, Bodenschatz exposed his penis and brutalized the fragile psyche of a little boy.

The victim reported the incident to Bishop Joseph Adamec in 2002. He explained the acts occurred when Bodenschatz was associated with St. Mary's Church in Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania and within the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. In his letter to Adamec the victim spoke of the fear of reporting based upon a belief that no one would believe a beloved priest would do such a thing to a child.

Though the sexual abuse occurred in 1940, the victim wrote with passion calling Bodenschatz an "evil man" and said:

"We in the Catholic Church are suffering dearly today for the mistakes of secrecy and errors in judgement that were made in the past to protect men who were not worthy of the priesthood."

The writer sought no relief or compensation in his letter to Bishop Adamec. He merely sought to inform the Bishop of his experience that "at least" one sexually predatory priest had been abusing the children of the Diocese. That letter was filed amongst the other numerous child predators once or currently in the Diocese under - Bodenschatz, Rev. Peter.