

NAME: Fr. John Boyle
DATE OF BIRTH: June 11, 1924
DATE OF DEATH: December 14, 2011
ORDINATION: May 26, 1956

ASSIGNMENTS:

05/1956-06/1958 Cathedral of Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, PA
06/1958-11/1962 St. Patrick's Church, Johnstown, PA
Part time instructor at Johnstown High School
11/1962-06/1964 Immaculate Conception, Lock Haven, PA
06/1964-08/1964 Most Holy Trinity, Huntingdon, PA
08/1964-06/1965 St. Mark's Church, Altoona, PA
06/1965-01/1966 St. Joseph's Church, Portage, PA
01/1966-01/1969 Most Precious Blood, Emeigh, PA and
Holy Incarnation, Marsteller, PA
*01/1969-11/1970 "Sick Leave"
11/1970-06/1971 St. Catherine's Church, Mt. Union, PA
06/1971-10/1971 St. Edward's Church, Barnesboro, PA
10/1971-10/1972 Corpus Christi, Dunlo, PA
10/1972-06/1995 St. Agnes Church, Beaverdale, PA
*02/03/1995 – Evaluation at treatment facility
02/17/1995
06/95 "Retired"

On October 1, 1954, the Rev. Francis J. Sexton, Vice-Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Boston, wrote Bishop Richard T. Guilfoyle of the Diocese of Altoona the following:

"I am happy to enclose the letter of his Excellency, Archbishop Cushing, excardinating from the Archdiocese of Boston John J. Boyle. I shall be most grateful if Your Excellency will send to me the formal letter incardinating Mr. Boyle into the Diocese of Altoona. I pray that Mr. Boyle will give many years of fruitful service to the Diocese of Altoona."

With that letter the ministry of Father John Boyle began in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Between 1958 and 1960, Father John Boyle engaged in sexual child abuse of a 10 or 11-year-old boy. Boyle engaged in fondling the boy's genitals, masturbation, and oral intercourse with the child. The matter was not reported to the Diocese until 1992.

In 1969, Boyle was accused of sexually abusing another child, a 12-year-old boy. The nature and location of the crime are not recorded in diocesan records. The matter was reported to the Diocese and the Pennsylvania State Police by the boy's "irate" father.

was reported to the Diocese and the Pennsylvania State Police by the boy's "irate" father. In January 1969, Diocesan leadership noted the events which were occurring in handwritten memos found in the archives of the Diocese by Office of Attorney General investigators in 2015. The notes remark that while the victim's father was a "hill-billy", Boyle was "ill" and that the "boy's story is believed by all." Hogan notes indicate that it was believed there was "sufficient" evidence for charges. Bishop James Hogan further noted that he intended to point out to Father Boyle (coded as "Fr. B" in Diocesan records) that he "could move."

On February 25, 1970, a vague letter was dispatched to Father Boyle by Bishop James Hogan. That letter explains, in part, why charges were never filed:

"Mr. Bionaz, who remembers you well and fondly, points out that police superiors cannot be expected to regard the case with all the sensitive delicacy exercised by their Catholic investigating subordinates. Nor can he permit the issue to die with a vague promise of "we'll look into it and take care of it". Too many cases return to haunt them. The D.A. is disposed to do this: To withhold the filing of formal charges as well as a pressing for extradition. This, however, provided that I guarantee two things. First, that you not re-enter the area and that no parochial assignment be given to you until professionally recommended. Secondly, that you immediately place yourself in the care of a competent psychiatrist or hospital for the examination and treatment deemed to be indicated. You will appreciate that I had little room here for options. Mr. Bionaz, accordingly, was so assured."

Before concluding the letter, Bishop James Hogan notes "Your priestly life and effectiveness is my sole concern-as it is yours." Bishop James Hogan placed Father John Boyle on "sick leave" by his agreement and returned Boyle to ministry at St. Catherine's Church in Mount Union, Pennsylvania less than a year later.

In 1971, Father John Boyle groped the genitals of a 15-year-old boy in the basement of St. Edward's Church in Barnesboro, Pennsylvania on numerous occasions. Boyle also kissed the boy and performed oral sex on him. The boy was confused. He could taste the alcohol on Father Boyle's mouth. He concluded that what was happening to him must be what the Church called the "mystery of the Church and Priesthood."

Between 1973 and 1975 Father Boyle rendered another child unconscious by plying him with alcohol. After the child was unconscious, Boyle anally raped him. Boyle repeatedly raped the boy numerous times in the rectory of St. Agnes Church in Beaverdale, Pennsylvania between the boy's 14th and 16th birthdays.

In 1982 Father Boyle met a troubled 16-year-old boy and offered him a job at St. Agnes Church. One day Boyle took the boy to buy new clothes and asked him to come to the rectory to model them. The boy modeled the clothes for Boyle who gave the boy alcohol. The boy spent the night at Boyle's request. While the boy was asleep Boyle came into his room and began to molest his genitals. Then Boyle forced the boy to perform oral sex. The sexual abuse continued for approximately one year and evolved to include anal intercourse. During that time the boy recalled being given lavish gifts to include a 1981 Toyota Celica GT. Boyle played the Alabama song "When we make love" on trips with the boy and told him "this is our song." As a man over 40, the victim looked back on the boy that went to Father John Boyle for help and concluded his situation only got worse because of Father Boyle.

Joseph Adamec, the Bishop of the Diocese in 1992, finally acted on the 1992 complaint as well as additional complaints by sending Boyle to "treatment" in 1995. Boyle was permitted to retire in 1995. Father John Boyle died a Roman Catholic priest in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.