

NAME: Fr. William Crouse
DATE OF BIRTH: December 26, 1930
DATE OF DEATH: July 11, 2009
ORDINATION: March 14, 1959

ASSIGNMENTS:

1959-1964 Comboni College, Ethiopia
1964-1965 St. Joseph's Church, Georgia
1965-1968 Sacred Heart Seminary, Ohio
1968-1970 Verona Feathers, NJ
1970-1971 Military Fort, Gordan, GA
1971-1972 Long Bingham, Vietnam
1972-1975 Fort Meade, MD
1975-1977 Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico
1977-1979 St. Mary's Church, Altoona, PA
1979-1980 St. John Evangelist Church, Bellefonte, PA
1980-1987 Chaplain at SCI Rockview
1987-2002 St. Kateri Tekak., Penns Valley
*07/2002 Therapist Evaluation
10/2002 medical retirement

Father William Crouse sodomized a 14-year-old boy while serving at the Verona Feathers of Mount Claire, New Jersey. The victim reported Crouse's sexual abuse of him to Bishop Joseph Adamec in 2002. The victim explained that he recalled lying on his stomach in pain and crying begging William Crouse to stop raping him. He recalled other times where Crouse would take him fishing and give him alcohol until he would pass out. The victim would awake with severe pain in his "bowels" and find blood in his stool. The victim also spoke of an additional incident where Crouse and another priest identified as "Father Ben" gave the boy alcohol. He awoke to both priests molesting him. The victim reported that he had suffered years of drug and alcohol abuse trying to deal with his rape as a child. In one of three letters located by the Office of Attorney General in Diocesan files, the victim wrote Bishop Joseph Adamec on July 10, 2002 and stated that the effect of Crouse's assaults left him "a daily drunk hiding my shame and that destroyed what happiness I could have had."

Adamec interviewed Crouse on July 23, 2002. Crouse stated he had engaged in an "inappropriate relationship" with the boy which he said would be called "child molestation" today. Crouse admitted he had been "worried about this for a long time" but minimized the conduct in therapy stating that the victim approached him and that

Crouse simply gave in and allowed it to happen. Crouse's therapist informed the Bishop that Crouse was neither a "homosexual nor pedophile" and that he was "not a danger to anyone." Among Adamec's recommendations to Crouse was that he try to find the victim and "apologize" to him. Crouse was to let Adamec know if he was successful. Father William Crouse retired following his "treatment." Crouse died in 2009. There is no record Adamec reported this matter to authorities or attempted to identify the other priest involved in the alleged assault.