

NAME: Fr. Elwood Figurelle
DATE OF BIRTH: March 29, 1933
DATE OF DEATH: July 16, 2008
ORDINATION: May 18, 1963

ASSIGNMENTS:

06/1963-11/1969 St. Mary Immaculate Conception, Altoona, PA;
Bishop Guilfoyle High School
11/1969-06/1971 St. Leo Church, Altoona, PA
06/1971-08/1973 St. Rose of Lima, Altoona, PA
08/1973-08/1974 St. Joseph's Church, Renovo, PA
08/1974-03/1979 St. Michael's Church, West Salisbury, PA
03/1979-06/1995 St. Mary Immaculate Conception, Altoona, PA
06/1995-03/2003 St. Catherine Church, Mt. Union, PA
*04/2003 Saint Luke's Institute

Father Elwood Figurelle's potential for deviancy might have been noticed in 1973. While a parish priest at St. Rose of Lima in Altoona, Pennsylvania, Figurelle was arrested that year for indecent exposure. The Diocese transferred him to another parish after his arrest.

In 2003 Figurelle was the subject of a federal investigation and arrest for possession of child pornography. Federal Bureau of Investigation reports, designated FD-302's, were found inside Diocesan files by Office of Attorney General investigators. On March 20, 2003, Figurelle was interviewed by FBI agents at his parish. Figurelle admitted to being "fascinated with male genitalia" and admitted he had viewed materials depicting nude prepubescent boys on several hundred occasions. Father Figurelle claimed he didn't know that viewing the material was illegal, however he confessed to federal agents that he had purchased software to erase his computer memory out of a concern he was being tracked.

At 2:00 P.M. on March 20, 2003, Figurelle met with one of Bishop Joseph Adamec's closest advisors, Monsignor George Flinn. Figurelle confessed to Flinn that he had been downloading and making copies of child pornography. Monsignor Flinn's notes indicated that Figurelle's housekeeper and secretary were to "leave and keep quiet." Figurelle himself told Monsignor George Flinn that his 1979 matter had been taken care of at a "private" hearing at the Blair County Courthouse. He was promised there would

be “no record.” There is no evidence that the Diocese turned any of this information over to the FBI in Flinn’s notes.

After his conviction, Figuerelle served 15 months in federal prison for his crimes. Following his release he was placed on retired status. Monsignor Flinn was awarded the Prince Gallitzin Cross award in April 2003 for exemplifying in his discipleship the evangelizing characteristics of the Reverend Priest and Prince, Servant of God Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin. An award established by Bishop Joseph Adamec in 1990 and bestowed by the discretion of the Bishop. Flinn is now deceased.