

NAME: Fr. Bernard Grattan  
DATE OF BIRTH: February 14, 1944  
STATUS: Dismissed from Priesthood  
ORDINATION: May 3, 1975

ASSIGNMENTS:

05/1975-05/1977 St. Joseph's Church, Renovo, PA  
05/1977-05/1978 Holy Rosary Church, Juniata, PA  
Chaplain at Altoona Hospital  
05/1978-06/1988 St. Patrick's Church, Newry, PA  
06/1988-06/1995 St. Patrick's Church, Gallitzin, PA  
\*06/1994 Saint John Vianney's Institute  
(returned to St. Patrick's Church 01/1995)  
06/1995-04/2002 Chaplain at Altoona Hospital  
04/2002 Medical Leave  
06/2004 Dismissed from priesthood

Father Bernard Grattan is believed to have molested numerous young males over his 25 years as a priest with the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. In 1982 Grattan offended on a child from St. Patrick's school while serving as a parish priest at St. Patrick's parish in Newry, Pennsylvania. Grattan would take the 13 to 15-year-old child into his parish office and undress him. Grattan would then fondle the boy's genitals until he would ejaculate onto Grattan's hands. Grattan then licked the ejaculate off his hands. Over a two-year period Grattan sexually abused the boy again and again. The sexual abuse expanded to include oral sex. Grattan also made the boy perform sex acts on Grattan.

One of the most recent complaints was made to the Diocese in 2008. As is typical of the efforts of the Allegation Review Board, Sister Marilyn Welch acted more as an investigator against the victim than an advocate for the claim or the abused. Welch makes the following note about the victim in her report, "This man is very troubled" and then complained about the number of times the victim calls her or cancels an appointment. Welch notes that the victim "Called on April 9 and went through the whole scenario again." At another point in her notes she characterizes his discussion with her as crying and rambling and speculates that he may be under the influence of alcohol. The Grand Jury finds this to be unacceptable and yet another example of the fraud that the Diocese perpetrates upon victims of child sexual abuse by characterizing this woman as a

“victim advocate” and by pretending that the Allegation Review Board does anything more than make liability assessments to protect the Diocese.

Welch’s conduct is even more offensive when the history of Grattan’s assignments is reviewed. Bishop James Hogan and Bishop Joseph Adamec were aware of allegations against Father Grattan. Bishop Hogan permitted Grattan to remain in ministry where he offended on additional children. Bishop Adamec reviewed Grattan’s conduct upon becoming Bishop and moved him to a less high-profile position as Chaplain at Altoona Hospital. While acting as chaplain, Grattan sexually offended on an incapacitated patient. Adamec finally removed Grattan from the priesthood after the victimization of yet another member of the public.

On May 19, 2015, Grattan was questioned under oath before the Grand Jury. Grattan admitted to molesting children while serving as an active priest. The following exchange is a portion of that questioning:

*Mr. Dye: So let me ask you --To go back to the incident with the young boy, how old was that boy whose penis you touched?*

*Mr. Grattan: I think about 14 or 15.*

*Mr. Dye: Do you remember what you were doing at the time, was it teaching the classes, was that working with the altar boys? What were you doing?*

*Mr. Grattan: Oh, he was an altar boy.*

*Mr. Dye: Okay.*

*Mr. Grattan: Yes.*

*Mr. Dye: And where did that happen at?*

*Mr. Grattan: It was -- It happened in my car.*

*Mr. Dye: And where was your car at that time?*

*Mr. Grattan: It was at the rectory.*

*Mr. Dye: Which rectory was that? What rectory?*

*Mr. Grattan: St. Patrick in Newry.*

*Mr. Dye: Do you remember how the boy responded to that?*

*Mr. Grattan: Yes. It was very adult. He said, Father, we shouldn't be doing this, and I said, I know we shouldn't, and I stopped.*

The Grand Jury finds both Bishops Hogan and Adamec endangered the public. Hogan endangered children by leaving Grattan in ministry as a parish priest and Adamec endangered the public by assigning Grattan to hospital ministry. During questioning before the Grand Jury Grattan admitted to coming into contact with children, families, grieving Catholics, and various members of the public while in his capacity as Hospital Chaplain. He admitted his contact with these unknowing potential victims was completely unsupervised by any member of the Diocese. Grattan explained of the many duties he would engage in, some would be providing last rights to the dying or deceased. While serving as a chaplain, Grattan sexually assaulted a physically disabled patient while on a home visit.