

NAME: Fr. Leonard Inman
DATE OF BIRTH: May 7, 1928
DATE OF DEATH: June 1, 2001
ORDINATION: May 27, 1961

ASSIGNMENTS:

06/1961-06/1963 St. Rose of Lima Church, Altoona, PA
06/1963-08/1967 Part time teacher at Bishop McCort High School
09/1967-05/1968 Catholic Charities, Altoona, PA
05/1968-06/1971 Catholic Charities, Altoona, PA
06/1971-01/1986 Cathedral of Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, PA
*01/1986-01/1987 "Nervous Exhaustion", Saint Luke's Institute
01/1987-08/1989 St. Peter's Church, Somerset, PA
1989 St. Charles Immaculate Conception, retired

Father Leonard Inman was a priest in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. Inman raped at least one child and paid other young men for sex while he served at the Cathedral of Blessed Sacrament from 1971 to 1986. In at least one instance Inman forced a minor to engage in oral sex within the rectory of Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

The search warrant executed by the Office of Attorney General on the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown found very few records related to Father Inman. However the Grand Jury was able to obtain these records through other means and information from other reliable sources. The Grand Jury found that materials from the "Secret Archives" of the Diocese indicate that then Bishop Hogan was very much aware that Inman was raping children as a priest at the Cathedral. Even knowing the alleged victim was a vulnerable and underprivileged 16-years-old boy, Hogan conspired to obstruct a police investigation and denied police access to the Cathedral in the course of their investigation.

The Grand Jury discovered that the 16-year-old victim provided the Altoona Police with a statement on January 27, 1986, saying (Grand Jury Exhibit 65):

"He is a white priest, around in his forties, black hair, he wears glasses, his lips are kind of funny, I can't tell you how but they are funny to me. He wears a priest suit, he wears a brown coat and a brown hat. He usually has on a undershirt and underpants. He has a gold ring on both hands. He wears a gold wrist watch with diamonds on the watch. That is about it."

When questioned by police as to what occurred, the victim stated:

"I think it was around Christmas, about four years ago when I was about 11 years old... He took me inside the Cathedral, down in the basement. He took off his clothes and I

took off mine. He blew me first, he laid down on the carpet on the floor and told me to get on top of him. I knelt above his head and he blew me until I came in his mouth. He (the priest) swallowed it. When he blew me he had me call him dirty names. I called him dick, asshole, cunt, bobbies. Then he paid me forty dollars and I left."

Inman raped the boy numerous times in the Cathedral starting when the victim was 11-years-old and ending when the boy reported it to police. Inman provided the boy with money after each assault. The victim described the location inside the Cathedral where he was often abused stating that the assaults occurred in the rectory of Cathedral, in a storage room where Christmas decorations were kept, and once in a "long black funeral-like car." The victim also stated the priest took pictures of him with a camera that "makes pictures right away, you take the picture and it comes out and you shake the picture". In some of the victim's encounters with Inman he would show the victim photos of naked girls which he kept in his desk drawer in a cigar box under some papers.

The Grand Jury learned Altoona Police took the victim's statement and corroborated it by interviewing numerous young men who stated that Inman would regularly take walks around the Cathedral in the evening and offer them money for sex. Police were able to confirm that Inman was paying 18-year-olds for sex and that he could be observed doing so if surveilled. Altoona Police Chief Peter Starr and his investigators asked to search the areas of the Cathedral as described by the victim but were denied access after the Bishop consulted with a defense attorney, Richard Consiglio, Esq. Police planned on having a cooperating witness wear a recording device, commonly known as a wire, in the area Inman stalked for prey. The wire was not successful because Inman suddenly stopped trolling the ally for sex.

Peter Starr, the Police Chief of Altoona during the Inman investigation, testified before the Grand Jury on January 23, 2015. Starr explained the failure of the wire as follows:

Mr. Dye: Let me stop you there, sir. I mean, as a law enforcement official you're meeting with this Bishop. By then the Diocese had already put up some roadblocks relative to searching the church and things like that. Did it not jar you to hear this guy, to hear a Bishop tell you, I knew about your police activity? I knew you tried to do a wire?

Mr. Starr: Well, yeah, it did, but you know the reason he knew about it from what Monsignor Saylor told me was that Attorney (REDACTED) aunt was a nun in the convent across the street from the Cathedral Church, and according to

Monsignor Saylor, Attorney (REDACTED) called his aunt and said, you better get ahold of Father Inman because the police are doing an investigation on him and he may end up getting arrested.

Mr. Dye: Okay. So once Saylor told you that, that this attorney had basically turned a police investigation, did you try to start an investigation into that attorney's conduct?

Mr. Starr: No. No, I did not.

The Grand Jury was unable to confirm Mr. Starr's belief as to how Inman knew of a police wire. However, the Grand Jury did find alarming evidence that the Altoona Police themselves turned a blind eye to Inman's crimes. Testimony from Richard White, a former Altoona police officer and current Chief of Police of Blair Township, indicated the investigation into Inman was dropped following Hogan's involvement and his meeting with Altoona Police Chief Peter Starr. White indicated he was told not to pursue the case by his superiors. Peter Starr was asked why the Inman case was not pursued in the face of substantial evidence of criminal conduct, Starr stated:

"So the next day I get a call from Monsignor Philip Saylor of the Diocese, and he says, hey, he says, Monsignor – he said that Father Inman just got in his car and left for an institution in Baltimore that deals with homosexual and pedophilia priests."

The Grand Jury attempted to ascertain why an individual would be able to escape accountability simply by seeking treatment in Baltimore, Mr. Starr stated the following:

Mr. Dye: As I'm going through this statement – quite frankly – we'll go through it—but as I went through this packet, I mean, I'm seeing a pretty—I mean by today's standards, 1986 to 2015 standards, I'm seeing what looks like a pretty expertly run investigation by your guys back in 1986. I mean, they're getting the facts out of this kid. They're getting corroborative information that would justify a search warrant, such as there's Christmas stuff in this room. I mean this is a top-notch investigation.

What confuses me though is, and I don't want to jump the gun here, but when we get to the end, towards the end, this thing just goes dead. All of a sudden reports stop being generated and there's no follow-up. How did that happen?

Mr. Starr: This, what you're reading here is what initiated the request for the wiretap.

Mr. Dye: Okay.

Mr. Starr: Once that wiretap was initiated and approved by the District Attorney's Office, Inman left town. Nobody knew – you know, Monsignor Saylor told me he went someplace in Baltimore that was there for wayward priests.

Mr. Dye: Okay.

Mr. Starr: And I hadn't seen him again until after I had left the police department and I was at a restaurant one time and he came in with some elderly woman. And he saw me and he was all grins and I just turned around and walked away from the guy.

Mr. Dye: Okay.

Mr. Starr: But he passed away shortly after that.

Mr. Dye: Okay.

Mr. Starr: So I don't know where he — after he went to Baltimore, nobody seems to know where he went to.

Mr. Dye: Well, I mean, I want to be clear. You're not saying that the investigation died because he left the state, or is that what you're saying?

Mr. Starr: No, I'm just saying that we—we didn't know where he went. There's the 180-day rule in Pennsylvania and we wanted to get him back here, and we never did see him again after that.

Mr. Dye: But charges were not filed either?

Mr. Starr: No, we didn't file the charges on him, no.

Mr. Dye: But I mean, clearly charges could have been filed?

Mr. Starr: They could have been.

Mr. Dye: A warrant could have been issued for his arrest?

Mr. Starr: Or would have been issued for his arrest.

Mr. Dye: And even if this guy was in Albuquerque he would have been picked up on that warrant and brought back to Pennsylvania to face trial?

Mr. Starr: If the District Attorney would approve the extradition costs, yes.

The Grand Jury was able to conclude that the Altoona Police *chose* not pursue the Inman matter. There is no 180 day legal or procedural provision which would have prevented Inman's prosecution. There is no creature of law or reality which would have prevented Inman from facing justice... other than the decision made by the Altoona Police to not pursue a predatory priest within their jurisdiction. Additionally concerning was former Chief Starr's assertion that his investigation had been obstructed and compromised but he failed to investigate how or by whom.

The truth lies in the notes taken by Bishop Hogan regarding Inman's crimes. Hogan noted that after first consulting a criminal defense attorney and then meeting with the police, Inman would be sent to treatment. Hogan made sure the Diocese avoided public scrutiny and Inman avoided accountability. Similarly in 1985 Hogan mailed a letter to suspected predatory priests warning them that police were running surveillance on areas where priests were known to solicit children and young men for sex. The Grand Jury found Inman was one of those priests. Father Leonard Inman died in 2001.

The Grand Jury finds that Inman was actively engaging in prostitution and oral intercourse with minors at Cathedral of Blessed Sacrament, Altoona. Altoona Police were aware of allegations and investigated the matter. The Diocese sought to protect the image of the institution rather than protect children or hold Inman accountable. No charges were ever filed in no small part due to the undue influence of the Diocese over local officials.

D. Father Leonard Inman

SSA Isom dissected the loathsome behavior of Father Leonard Inman. Inman preyed on disadvantaged youth by trolling the alleyways around the grand Altoona Cathedral. Father Leonard Inman offered money for sex and engaged in those acts in the Cathedral itself. Isom found that for a young or immature child the offering of cash, though transactional, meets the criteria to be considered grooming.

Inman showed the child pornography which Isom found to be common. The display of pornography normalizes conduct and encourages the child to engage in the same or similar conduct. The offender can say that conduct, as depicted, is enjoyable and that doing it is a "good time."

Isom used the Inman case to speak to the unique role of the priesthood and religion in this investigation. The impact of engaging in such acts in a sacred location creates additional layers of shame and embarrassment and heightens the fear of reporting. Additional conflict about the wrongness of the act and how it intersects with the victim's faith adds additional layers of confusion, shame and fear. Inman raped a child in the Cathedral as a priest; the victim does not separate the man from the priest, or the authority from the man. Isom concluded, in part, that the lack of an authoritative response or investigation further speaks to how thoroughly the community was groomed to respect these priests and the institution.

The Grand Jury found the testimony of the agent from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to be grounded in corroborative evidence uncovered throughout this investigation. The Grand Jury supports Agent Isom's conclusions that the authority and positions of these men within the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown aided them in sexually abusing children. Make no mistake, evidence shows that in the mind of a little child the acts of a priest occurred with the authority of God.