

NAME:	Fr. Robert Kelly
DATE OF BIRTH:	March 2, 1948
STATUS:	Suspended from active ministry
ORDINATION:	July 13, 1974
<u>ASSIGNMENTS:</u>	
08/1974-05/1978	Our Lady of Victory, State College, PA
05/1978-01/1979	Our Mother of Sorrows, Johnstown, PA
01/1979-09/1980	Chaplain at SCI Rockview
09/1980-1982	St. Benedict Church, Johnstown, PA
1982-1984	St. Joseph's Church, Bellwood, PA
	Our Lady of Lourdes, Altoona, PA
10/1984-08/1985	Our Lady of Victory, State College, PA
08/1985-1986	St. Mary Immaculate Conception, Altoona, PA
1986-09/1987	St. Patrick's Church, Gallitzin, PA
09/1987-08/1989	Immaculate Conception Church, Lock Haven, PA
08/1989-08/1992	North American College, Rome
*08/1992- Unknown	Guest House Treatment Facility
*1993	Saint John Vianney Institute
06/1993- Unknown	Charleston, SC
1994	Office of Propagation of Faith, Hollidaysburg, PA
Unknown - 1995	St. Rose of Lima Church, Altoona, PA
2001 - 02/2015	St. Peter & Paul Church, Philipsburg, PA
02/2015	Suspended from ministry

Between 1975 and 1977, Father Robert Kelly was a parish priest at Our Lady of Victory in State College, Pennsylvania, when he sexually abused a 12 to 13 year-old boy. Kelly would take the boy to drive-in movies, drives to the mountains, and spend time with the boy. Kelly would kiss the boy and touch his body. Kelly reached into the boys pants on more than one occasion. Kelly provided the boy beer at the rectory and attempted to sleep with the boy but he refused. In 1978 Father Kelly attempted to offend on another 14-year-old child who rebuffed him when Kelly maintained a lingering "hug."

In 1993 the Diocese acted on a complaint from one of Kelly's victims. Documents from the Diocese characterized Kelly's problem as "pedophilic" and "sexual." Following an evaluation it was recommended that Kelly could live in a rectory after a year and that he should avoid contact with young people "such as altar boys." Kelly was subsequently returned to ministry as a parish priest. He served at both St. Rose of Lima in Altoona and at St. Peter and Paul in Philipsburg, Pennsylvania prior to Bishop Mark Bartchak suspending him in February 2015. Bishop Joseph Adamec possessed the same information Bishop Bartchak had when Bartchak removed him in 2015. However,

Adamec saw fit to return him to the flock. The Grand Jury finds this to be horrifying. A man unfit to be around a child was tasked to tend to their souls.

Prior to his suspension, Father Robert Kelly was subpoenaed and questioned regarding his conduct as a priest, before the Grand Jury and in the presence of his attorney, on February 10, 2015. After swearing an oath to tell the truth Father Kelly terminated questions when it became clear that the truth was not on his side. Kelly had been accused of sexually assaulting minors. In contrast, Kelly stated that a sexual assault allegation had been made against him and provided the following account in part:

“But at any rate, he was a senior in college at one point, and he come up to me at that -- he would have been 21 or 22 at the very least -- after a Mass one Sunday, and he mentioned he was going to be graduating the next week. And I said, well, congratulations. I didn't even know what he had been majoring in. I said, would you like to go out for a pizza, and he said, sure. I said, what day -- I would be free this day or this day, you know, of this coming week. So we went out for a pizza -- and I remember this distinctly. We came back to the church and I said, would you like a Coke or a beer? He was already over 21. And he said, sure. And the way things were built, we had what we would call a common room. It was on the second floor of the living quarters. No one else was in it at the time. I said, I don't know what we have, so we went upstairs through the house. And I said, what would you like? He took a soda and I had a beer and we went immediately down to my office. And I sat at the desk and he sat across the desk from me and we chatted about what degree he was getting and what he had hoped to do, maybe a half hour or so. And when he was going out of the office through the front door outside, I put my arms around him and gave him a hug from behind. And I remember doing that. And that's the only time I remember doing that. And like I said, he was graduating from college. That was -- I was stationed at Our Lady of Victory four different times. I was living there for various reasons, and that's the third time in 1985 or '86. A priest had left there and the Bishop asked me, because I knew people well there, to go back and fill in for a while. And I explained that to the review board after he had been there, and they just more or less accepted it. And what I heard afterward was that the Diocese provided kind of a lump sum of money. There were somewhere between 15 and 20 clients of Attorney Serbin. And he was a retired judge I believe from Pittsburgh who was going to

meet with each one of these people, clients, and decide what amount of money from the lump sum of money would be given to each one, and they all agreed that that would settle it. And what I heard afterwards was that this young man got -- it ranged from \$20,000 to I don't know how much a person, and that he got the lowest amount. And I haven't heard -- I never heard anything directly from him and haven't heard, you know, anything about that since then."

Even Kelly admitted he had no relationship with the young man to warrant giving the alleged victim so much personal attention; he explained that he felt any allegations against him were an attempt to achieve financial gain. But when questioned by the Deputy Attorney General about behavior this Grand Jury found to be consistent with grooming, Father Kelly chose not to answer (victim identity has been REDACTED):

Mr. Dye: And what do you think (REDACTED) motive to lie would have been? Did I get the name of the victim right, (REDACTED)? What do you think his motive to lie would have been at the time?

I know after the fact we can say, well, there was an attorney and the attorney was going to make big money for everybody. When he first comes forward -you have this positive interaction with him with pizza and a beer and a soda and a hug at the end. Why make this up?

(Defense Counsel for Father Kelly approached the witness)

Mr. Dye: Sir, sir, sir. You cannot advise him unless he asks you for your aid. Wait, let the record reflect that the attorney left his chair and engaged the client mid-question. If Father Kelly wishes to consult with his attorney, he can put that on the record. Do you wish to consult with your attorney?

Mr. Kelly: Yes.

Mr. Dye: Please do so.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. Dye: So sir, I'm going to repeat my question, what his motive to lie would be?

Mr. Kelly: Can I say something to my attorney?

Mr. Dye: Go ahead.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. Kelly: On the advice of my attorney I'll plead the Fifth on that one.