

NAME: Msgr. Francis B. McCaa
DATE OF BIRTH: December 21, 1924
DATE OF DEATH: May 24, 2007
ORDINATION: May 22, 1948

ASSIGNMENTS:

07/1948-06/1955	St. John Gualbert, Johnstown, PA
06/1955-06/1961	Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Altoona, PA
06/1961-12/1985	Holy Name Church, Ebensburg, PA
*12/10/1985	Evaluation with Dr. Karl Ludwig
03/1986-03/1993	Veteran's Hospital, Martinsburg, WV
*10/1992	St. Alphonso Retreat
03/1993	Retired from ministry

Father Francis McCaa was a monster. Between 1961 and 1985 while serving as parish priest at Holy Name parish in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, McCaa groped and fondled the genitals of numerous children who attended the Holy Name School or served the parish itself, often as altar boys. The innocent boys who McCaa sexually abused were between 8 and 15 years old. Yet, McCaa was highly respected within the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and was given the designation of Monsignor as a sign of that respect and trust.

Nearly every known victim indicated that Father McCaa sexually offended on them in almost every interaction which would permit physical contact. Numerous former altar boys reported that McCaa would make them take their pants off under their cassocks. He would bring the boys in, sometimes in a group, and reach under their religious vestments to touch and squeeze their genitals. On other occasions he would inspect them to make sure they had followed his instructions and grope them. Sometimes he would push his finger into their anuses before sending them off to engage in a church function. One victim reported having his genitals fondled while in confession. Another victim, an altar boy, reported being humiliated in front of other victims when told by McCaa "if you ever use this I'm going to rip it off" while gripping the victim's penis. Most children didn't report out of fear or embarrassment. In some cases children tried to report their abuse to their parents, many of whom were devout Catholics, but were not believed. As one victim stated, when he told his mother that Monsignor McCaa was putting his hands inside the child's pocket and touching the genitals, his mother slapped

said "Monsignor was just being friendly." The Grand Jury aches at hearing the hopelessness these victims felt when being offended on by a pastor they were taught to respect and honor.

McCaa obtained access to his victims through his role as parish priest. At least one boy became McCaa's victim when the priest became involved with the family after the death of his father. Many of the boys took solace in one another as they shared collective sadness and fear. The Grand Jury finds McCaa was as deadly a predator as any child molester can be. There were no limits to how low Francis McCaa would sink to feed his sickening hunger for innocence. McCaa offended on children within the Holy Name church usually within the sacristy and sometimes in the rectory. In other cases the priest offended on victims while taking their confession.

McCaa's victims report they would warn each other about McCaa's assaults. But tragically McCaa was a formidable figure and the boys felt like there was no escape. In many cases they stood together while being victimized and watched their friends being victimized as well. At least one victim committed suicide. Some report difficulty in personal relationships or damage to their sexuality. Others report having flashbacks "when hearing church bells" and doubting their faith in God.

The Grand Jury has no doubt that many young lives were torn apart by Monsignor Francis McCaa as he used his position and authority to murder the dignity of these children. The Grand Jury has identified as many as 15 victims who suffered at McCaa's hands.

While Francis McCaa may have been a devil in disguise to some members of this congregation, his true nature was not hidden from the eyes of his victims... nor was his true nature hidden from Bishop James Hogan. However, unlike his victims who sought to be saved from McCaa's torment, Hogan enabled it. Bishop Hogan knew that Francis McCaa had engaged in sex acts with multiple altar boys by 1985. Hogan met with representatives of the District Attorney's Office under District Attorney Gerald Long. Bishop Hogan kept detailed notes that he had met with two Assistant District Attorneys, Patrick Kiniry and Dennis McGlynn, to discuss the unpleasant reality that McCaa's conduct was at risk of becoming public. Hogan noted that the prosecutors stated that it was a "delicate situation" for the District Attorney and the Cambria County Courts.

On October 28, 1985 Bishop Hogan met with a group of parents. He wrote that the parents were outraged due to "inordinate familiarity with their altar boy sons" whose names and ages he noted. Hogan complains, "How the parents got together, and how the story first leaked I'm not sure." Hogan summarizes the parents' complaint that McCaa was groping their sons' genitals as "Nimia Familiaritas ubi Agitur Tactibus Genitalibus." Hogan's scripted hand writing concludes with a footnote that one parent had spoken to a child care official and was told that the incidents were child abuse. The unnamed official told the parent to go to the police or the D.A. The Bishop concludes, "In the best interests of the Church (publicity, etc.) they chose this course."

On November 25, 1985, Bishop Hogan met with a representative from the District Attorney's Office. Hogan's secret records, written in his own hand, included the following memorialization of that meeting:

On two occasions when (Monsignor McCaa) called, speaking of his plan to return, I had to remonstrate and gave reason. Disappointedly, he agreed.

On Monday, November 25, I met with Pat Kiniry at (Holy Name rectory) in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. I felt that I needed advice (regarding) reporting of the situation brought to my (attention) on 28 October 1985. And, apart from that, any & all counsel (regarding) handling of the situation. (Regarding) reporting, there seems to be no need for concern. It has been reported to the D.A.'s office by the parental group. Apparently, they are irritated by the fact that I have not met their demands or at least expressed (a) decision prior to this. Even P.K. considered that they didn't afford me much time. I had mistakenly hoped that, with Monsignor away, the time factor would help to defuse the intensity of their reaction. Obviously not, for to the Asst. D.A. who interviewed them, the filing of a complaint was threatened.

My outline of the case was scarcely necessary for Mr. K. both Mr. Long & he seem to have all the allegations furnished. Concerned a bit over "more names can be brought forward" – despite Monsignor's denial. Mr. Long, together with the (assistant) who (received) the group, are to meet with the parents on Mon., Dec. 2 at 10:00 a.m. They will try to defuse. But, while the D.A. may refuse to sign the complaint, the issue could be taken to one of the 4 Judges – who might or might not order the D.A. to sign. The officials must be careful not to whitewash if complaint is filed with lads support, no option! Bad as may be!

Plan discussed & agreed upon. 1) By no means should Monsignor return at this stage! 2) Provide Mr. Long w. Priest Psychiatrist's report (in the mail!). 3) Try to arrange a visit of Monsignor to & with Dr. Carl Ludwig, (Roman Catholic). routs in JO!, Psych. Service Sewickey Hosp., Pittsb. – recommended by Pr. in Miami. 4) Available to meet group – e.g. Tues. at Rectory, if Mr. Long deems it helpful or necessary? Yes! Mr. K. will let me know. I am prompted to send along to Mr. Long a few observations – e.g. or appended.

A timeline of McCaa's assignments shows that shortly after this meeting with Cambria County officials McCaa was sent for "treatment". Father McCaa was temporarily replaced by Father Martin Cingle pending a priest being permanently assigned. Cingle is named in this report and admitted contact with a minor's genitals before the Grand Jury. Within a year of Hogan's meeting with the District Attorney's Office, McCaa was reassigned as a hospital chaplain in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Hogan provided McCaa a glowing recommendation for his new post.

On September 14, 2015, the Grand Jury sought answers from former District Attorney Gerald Long, now a Senior Common Pleas Judge. Judge Long stated that he had no knowledge that his assistants had met with officials from the Diocese. He indicated that as the District Attorney at the time, any agreements as to case disposition would have or should have been made by the District Attorney himself. Judge Long could not explain the conduct of the prosecutors on his watch and remarked only that they were both "pretty strict Catholics."

The Grand Jury can find no evidence that Francis McCaa was ever prosecuted for his conduct. On January 12, 2016, Deputy Attorney General Daniel J. Dye, Supervisory Special Agent Gary Tallent and Special Agent Jessica Eger met with Common Pleas Judge Patrick Kiniry in his chambers at the Cambria County Courthouse in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. Judge Kiniry recalled the meeting with Bishop Hogan and indicated that he met with the Bishop at the request of District Attorney Gerald Long. Kiniry recalled that the allegations were that a priest was "messing around" with children and that Hogan had concerns about "what to do with the priest." An agreement was made that Hogan would transfer the priest to another location. Kiniry indicated the decision to not pursue charges would have been District Attorney Long's decision.

Kiniry was asked by Special Agent Tallent if this meeting with Bishop Hogan was unusual. Kiniry replied, "You have to understand, this is an extremely Catholic county." Kiniry explained that he attended Catholic school, Catholic Church and was an altar boy. He recalled his excitement in meeting the Bishop. Kiniry stated, "Being Catholic is engrained in you." When asked about the decision to transfer the priest to another location, Kiniry stated, "Back then the Diocese moved the problem, that's just

how it was.” He surmised it would be treated differently today in that “today” it would be investigated and the priest would possibly be arrested.

McCaa died in 2007. The number of victims of Francis McCaa may never be known. Many of the victims estimate the number of victims to be in the hundreds.