

NAME: Fr. Daniel F. O’Friel
DATE OF BIRTH: June 3, 1935
DATE OF DEATH: December 15, 1981
ORDINATION: May 27, 1961

ASSIGNMENTS:

06/1961-06/1963 St. John’s Church, Johnstown, PA
06/1963-06/1967 St. Rose of Lima Church, Altoona, PA
Part time instructor Bishop Guilfoyle High School
06/1967-07/1970 Asst. Principal Bishop Carroll High School
St. Patrick’s Church, Gallitzin, PA
07/1970-08/1974 Principal Bishop Carroll High School
Mt. Saint Ann Church, Ebensburg, PA
09/1974-12/1981 St. Mary’s Immaculate Conception, Altoona, PA

While Daniel O’Friel was principal at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, he befriended a student who was interested in joining the priesthood. O’Friel became aware that the 16-year-old was romantically seeing a fellow female student. O’Friel would provide the student a ride home on an almost daily basis. During that time O’Friel would ask questions about his contact with the girl like “did you undo her bra” or “did you kiss.” During these conversations Father O’Friel would unzip his pants and the victim’s pants and they would touch each other’s genitals. Father O’Friel joked with the victim that the conduct was an “easy way to go to confession.” The final assault occurred when the victim began to yell at O’Friel and jumped out of the car. The victim reported the incident to the Diocese in 2004.

Another allegation was made against Father O’Friel during his time as Principal of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. A 15-year-old student went to confession in Father O’Friel’s office. O’Friel became obsessed with details of the 15-year-old’s physical contact with his girlfriend. O’Friel started to touch the victim’s genitals and then exposed his own genitals. The victim recalled throwing up in the bathroom and having O’Friel’s semen on his hands. Another incident of sexual abuse occurred in Principal O’Friel’s car.

The Grand Jury notes that this second victim struggled greatly with his abuse. In many ways the sexual abuse undid him. The victim suffers from extreme emotional and psychological disturbances. Sadly, when he attended college in State College, Pennsylvania he went to seek counseling from another priest identified in this report,

Father Robert Kelly. Unbeknownst to this victim, Kelly had faced numerous allegations of sexual child abuse himself. When the victim broke down Father Kelly suggested that he spend the night at the rectory. While sitting on a bed next to Father Kelly, Kelly pushed his head into his lap. The victim doesn't recall the remainder of that evening but was hospitalized shortly thereafter.

The Grand Jury finds the commonality between these two reports credible. The Grand Jury finds these reports of unaffiliated individuals, which demonstrate a common *modus operandi* on the part of Father O'Friel, to substantiate these claims. The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown possessed file after file of similar allegations against a significant number of their priests. Father O'Friel is an example of the kind of child predator that could thrive in the midst of the Diocese unknown thanks to its efforts to silence outrage.

If one wonders just how difficult it must be for sexual abuse survivors within the Diocese, one must only look to O'Friel's second victim. Abused by O'Friel and propositioned by Kelly - that victim was seeking counseling from Father Coveney. As this report exposes, Coveney is also a suspected child predator.