

Reverend Francis Joseph McNelis

Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	1938
YEAR OF DEATH:	2005
ORDINATION:	May 22, 1965

Employment/Assignment History

6/1/1965 – 6/1/1966	Annunciation B.V.M., Shenandoah, PA
6/1/1966 – 11/1/1966	St. Joseph, Girardville, PA
11/1/1966 – 8/4/1967	Regional Director, C.Y.O., East Schuylkill County, PA
8/4/1967 – 6/11/1969	Regional Director, Thanksgiving Clothing Drive, East Schuylkill County, PA
6/11/1969 – 6/3/1970	St. Jerome, Tamaqua, PA
6/3/1970 – 6/9/1970	St. Theresa, Hellertown, PA
6/9/1970 – 9/25/1970	Regional Director, C.Y.O., Northampton County, PA
9/25/1970 – 4/4/1972	St. John the Baptist, Shillington, PA
4/4/1972 – 9/19/1972	St. Francis, Easton, PA
9/19/1972 – 8/30/1974	Regional Director, Thanksgiving Clothing Drive, Northampton County, PA
8/30/1974 – 6/17/1975	St. Ann, Emmaus, PA
6/17/1975 – 6/16/1980	St. Mary, and St. Boniface, St. Clair, Schuylkill County, PA
6/16/1980 – 6/20/1985	St. Mary, St. Clair, Schuylkill County, PA
6/20/1985 – 6/4/1993	St. Mary, Hamburg, PA
6/4/1993 – 1/14/1994	Sick Leave (Jemez Springs, New Mexico)
1/14/1994 – 3/1/2002	St. Ignatius, Loyola, Sinking Spring, PA
3/1/2002	Retired

Summary

In December 1992, a known victim reported that, between 1966 and 1968, Father Francis McNelis sexually abused him when he was between the ages of 10 and 13. McNelis masturbated the victim after having him lay on his back on McNelis' bed in the rectory. McNelis eventually forced the victim to masturbate McNelis. McNelis also told the victim he wanted to have anal sex with him. According to the victim, McNelis masturbated him on five or six occasions but anal sex did not occur. Records provided by the Diocese show McNelis was sent to Jemez Springs for "*spiritual and professional care.*" After his stay at Jemez Springs, the Diocese assigned McNelis to St. Ignatius Loyola as an Associate Pastor. On McNelis' assignment listing, which was provided by the Diocese, and next to his St. Ignatius assignment in parenthesis is a notation, "*Not for Publication.*" Despite repeated requests by McNelis to be reassigned, McNelis remained at St. Ignatius until he retired in 2002.

Summary

In 2004, a second victim came forward and reported sexual abuse by McNelis. After several years of grooming by McNelis, in 1968, when the second victim was approximately 16, McNelis forced the second victim to submit to McNelis performing fellatio on him. Soon after this incident, a second incident of abuse occurred in the rectory of St. Joseph, where again McNelis forcibly performed oral sex on the second victim.