

Reverend Charles J. Ruffenach

Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	1901
YEAR OF DEATH:	1980
ORDINATION:	May 29, 1930

Employment/Assignment History

6/11/1930 – 6/8/1931	Holy Ghost, Bethlehem, PA
608/1931 – 9/20/1934	St. Mary of the Assumption, Philadelphia, PA
9/20/1934 – 7/2/1979	St. John the Baptist, Stiles
7/02/1979 – 7/4/1980	St. John the Baptist, Stiles Holy Family Villa
7/04/1980	Deceased

Summary

On August 29, 2001, an adult victim contacted the Diocese to report physical and sexual abuse at the hands of Father Charles Ruffenach beginning in approximately 1945, when the victim was in first grade, and continuing through the eighth grade. The victim stated that Ruffenach beat, paddled, and sexually abused him when he attended St. John the Baptist school. The abuse took place on the premises of the parish, specifically in the “boiler room.” The victim also reported at the time of abuse Ruffenach referred to it as “*washing his penis.*”

In the late 1980’s, the victim confronted Ruffenach regarding the abuse. Ruffenach denied the allegations. However, during the confrontation, Ruffenach claimed that during the time of incident the victim wanted him to “*wash his penis.*”

At the time of the report by the victim, the Diocese responded by stating that Ruffenach was deceased and therefore it could not pursue the victim’s claims any further but offered the victim counseling. The victim advised he had been in counseling since age 29, and requested that the Diocese fund additional counseling sessions. Ultimately, the Diocese paid for eight months of counseling, amounting to several thousand dollars’ worth of counseling.