

Reverend Ronald Yarrosch

Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	1947
YEAR OF DEATH:	N/A
ORDINATION:	October 19, 1974

Employment/Assignment History

11/1974 – 12/1975	Assistant Promotion Director P.I.M.E. (Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions), Detroit, MI,
2/1976 – 6/1976	Language Student, P.I.M.E., Rome, Italy
8/1976 – 11/1976	Missionary, P.I.M.E., Hong Kong
2/1977 – 11/1981	Mission Appeal, P.I.M.E., Detroit, MI
2/1982 – 6/1982	Assistant Pastor, St. Anthony, Easton, PA
6/1982 – 10/1985	Assistant Pastor, Holy Rosary, Reading, PA
6/1986 – 6/1988	Assistant Pastor, St. Patrick, Pottsville, PA
6/1988 – 11/1991	Assistant Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, PA
5/1990	Incardination into the Diocese of Allentown
11/1991 – 6/1996	Assistant Pastor, St. Anne, Bethlehem, PA
6/1996 – 6/1998	Assistant Pastor, St. Margaret, Reading, PA
6/1996 – 6/1997	Campus Minister, Albright College, Reading, PA
6/1997 – 7/1997	Assistant Pastor Pro Tempore, St. Peter, Reading, PA
6/1998 – 6/1999	Assistant Pastor, St. Jane Frances de Chantel, Easton, PA
6/1999 – 6/2001	Pastor, Holy Family, Sacred Heart Churches, New Philadelphia, PA
6/1999 – 6/2001	Pastor, St. Anthony, Cumbola,
6/2001 – 6/2003	Assistant Pastor, St. Bernard, Easton, PA
6/2003 – 4/2004	Assistant Pastor, St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven, PA

Summary

On April 22, 2004, Diocesan documents recorded that the Pennsylvania State Police searched the rooms of Father Ronald Yarrosch and found a “*tremendous amount*” of child pornography. On April 29, 2004, Yarrosch was removed from priestly ministry and entered St. John Vianney Hospital for evaluation and treatment.

On May 12, 2004, the Pennsylvania State Police filed charges against Yarrosch, specifically, 110 counts of sexual abuse of children after discovering hundreds of child pornography photos, books, magazines, videos, and DVD’s in his possession. As law enforcement began its prosecution, Diocesan Support Services conducted an audit and determined that Yarrosch embezzled approximately \$23,000.00 from the parish. Charges were filed related to this theft.

Summary

On April 27, 2005, Yarrosch entered a plea of guilty to charges of theft and possession of child pornography. Yarrosch was sentenced pursuant to a negotiated plea agreement to imprisonment for three to 23 months, \$250.00 in fines, and restitution to the parish.

On May 3, 2005, Yarrosch was discharged from St. John Vianney Hospital and took residence at St. Francis Villa, Orwigsburg. Yarrosch was to begin his term of incarceration later that year. However, on July 18, 2005, the Diocese was made aware that Yarrosch was leaving his residence at St. Francis Villa.

On July 19, 2005, a letter was written to Yarrosch informing him that he was to remain at the residence, under supervision, until he was ordered to report to prison. Yarrosch subsequently met with the Secretary of Clergy and informed him that he could not remain at the Villa and would be leaving. On July 21, 2005, Yarrosch left St. Francis Villa and moved into a motel. Yarrosch continued in residence at the motel until August 8, 2005, at which time he was incarcerated in Schuylkill County Prison in Pottsville. Upon his release on November 31, 2005, Yarrosch registered with the Pennsylvania State Police as a sexual offender.

Upon his release from prison, Yarrosch was still a priest. On December 6, 2005, Yarrosch was released from prison as a convicted and registered sex offender. The Diocese granted him residence at St. Francis Villa in Orwigsburg. The Diocese's own designation of Yarrosch noted he was a "moderate to high risk to again use pornography and/or consort with prostitutes."

In November 2006, it was discovered that Father Yarrosch had taken trips to New York City with a seven-year-old child. Yarrosch was also found to be in possession of pornography in violation of his court supervision. The Schuylkill County Court of Common Pleas subsequently sentenced Yarrosch to four to ten years in state prison for violating the terms of his supervision. Finally, in June 2007, the Diocese dismissed Yarrosch from the priesthood.