

Father Salvatore P. Luzzi

Biographical Information

DATE OF BIRTH:	1935
YEAR OF DEATH:	
ORDINATION:	May 31, 1962

Employment/Assignment History

6/09/1962 – 8/29/1968	Faculty, Venango Christian High. Residence at St. Joseph, Oil City, PA
8/28/1968 – 8/28/1969	Sp. Ministry, St. Mark's Seminary, Erie, PA
8/28/1968 – 7/16/1972	Dean/Collegians, St. Mark's Seminary, Erie, PA
7/16/1972 – 5/05/1979	Sp. Ministry, St. Mark's Seminary, Erie, PA
5/05/1979 – 7/19/1994	Pastor, St. Joseph, Warren, PA
3/19/1991 – 8/01/1994	Sp. Ministry, Dean/Warren Co. Deanery, St Joseph, Warren, PA
7/19/1994 – 2/10/1995	Sick Leave
5/05/1979 – 9/15/1995	Resided at St. Joseph
9/15/1995 - currently	Faculties removed

Summary

After several years teaching at Venango Christian High School, Reverend Salvatore P. Luzzi was moved to St. Mark's Seminary, where he filled several roles. Over the course of his 30 year ministry, he was accused of sexual misconduct by eight male victims ranging in age from early teens to early twenties. Some of these victims were groped, inappropriately kissed, hugged, and/or fondled. He also faced allegations of responsibility for the suicide of a former student/victim.

Luzzi worked extensively with young would-be priests at St. Mark's where he and fellow priest Leon Muroski served as Spiritual Directors to the seminarians. Luzzi's inappropriate touching and fondling of at least two seminarians prompted the Diocese to settle with those seminarians for large sums of money. The first former Seminarian's case was settled in civil court for \$34,500 and this individual received several thousand dollars over the course of the many years that the Diocese paid for his counseling and medication costs.

Several other former juvenile victims of Luzzi received letters or phone calls of apology from the Diocese. These victims were counseled by the Diocese through correspondence or in-person interviews wherein Luzzi's behavior was dismissed as "*Sal's way of expressing himself*" and his "*touching approach*" to ministry was attributed to his Italian upbringing.

The Diocese listed several Luzzi victims in its internal reports, but little to no documentation was contained in the files. It was alleged that Luzzi groped the buttocks of one

Summary

victim in a hardware store in 1998. This individual was 19 at the time of the incident. Luzzi denied the touching and only admitted to patting this individual on the back.

In 1974-1975, Luzzi and Father Leon Muroski were working at Camp Notre Dame in Fairview when a young seminarian named Michael Amy was accused of fondling two juveniles. These victims reported the incident to the Pennsylvania State Police, the Diocese of Erie, and to their parents. The Diocese representative for this incident at Camp Notre Dame was Father Lawrence Speice. Speice assisted Amy by interceding on Amy's behalf with the State Police and the boys' parents. No arrest was made. Luzzi and Muroski dealt with Amy by making him attend counselling and keeping him in seminary. Amy would go on to abuse at least two more juveniles, along with several other unidentified juvenile prostitutes as an ordained priest prior to being laicized.

During Amy's laicization process, he called Speice, Muroski and Luzzi as his witnesses. Muroski denied knowledge of any wrongdoings by Amy. Speice and Luzzi both admitted some knowledge of Amy's molestation of children in 1974-1975. Luzzi wrote on Amy's Witness Statement that he was "*amazed that he was made a pastor in a place where something happened before,*" and that "*there certainly should have been something in his Seminary day files.*" Luzzi added, "*I personally wondered when these things would resurface.*"

In 1994, Bishop Trautman sent both Luzzi and Muroski to St. Luke's Institute for therapy. The Diocese publicly announced that Luzzi was going on an extended sabbatical for "*personal, spiritual and academic growth.*" Once Luzzi was discharged, the Bishop welcomed him back into pastoral ministry by letter on February 14, 1995. However, the welcome also came with several conditions and a Penial Precept, a formal notification in the church that restricts ministry. Trautman directed Luzzi to refrain from all contact with youth under 19 years of age and to avoid travel and social interaction with such parishioners. Later that same year, in September 1995, Trautman had Luzzi's faculties as a priest removed and Luzzi began residing in a private residence, where he remains today.

It was Luzzi's position that Trautman forced him to retire. It was the position of Trautman and the Diocese that what led to Luzzi's resignation was the weight of new allegations and the real possibility of widespread publicity. It was found in subpoenaed files that Luzzi's accusers threatened to take "*appropriate steps*" if Luzzi was not removed from ministry. This information was found in an internal document written by Monsignor Robert Smith and placed into Luzzi's file on October 12, 1995. Smith and Trautman informed Luzzi that if he did not retire of his own free will, the Diocese would follow the canonical process specified in church law to remove Luzzi. Luzzi resigned less than 30 days later.

I had a formal reconciliation with my first case. This happened a few weeks after returning from St Lukes. Bishop Trautman & Bob Smith accompanied me. Victim + wife were there represented by his religious counsel - I believe also a minister. He conducted the mtg. After going over all the grievance. I ask victim if I could ask for forgiveness - he gave me permission to do so. It was granted + he said he would never speak about it again. We shook hands - his wife hugged me + kissed me. Bishop OK'd paying for ~~an~~ going counseling. No money was ever mentioned in this encounter. (Later on after working as a COO for 5 yrs I pd compensation to diocese - which is not in this file)

Regarding Camp Notre Dame

I was never assigned there - never worked
 I was not involved ever with Mike Amy
 I never met with him or counseled him. This was not discussed with me ever
 After Amy was ordained - six or 7 yrs later - I became aware of situation because at that time I was on Personnel Board of Diocese. Therefore my comments about him for
 IATIZATION.

Regarding 18yr old - MW hardware store

THIS MAN REPORTED me to police + to the local dean - finally to Bishop. I WENT TO AN ATTORNEY

DANIEL HARTLE

78 MAIN ST

BRADFORD, PA 16701 - PHONE 814-362-7100

HE SET UP A LIE DETECTOR FOR ME. HE WAS AN EX FBI MAN DOING THIS KIND OF WORK FOR STATE POLICE IN PITTSBURGH AREA. TEST WAS ADMINISTERED IN LOW OFFICE CONFERENCE RM - WITH THE SMETHPORT POLICE OUTSIDE OF DOOR. I WAS TOLD BY THE ADMINISTRATOR I PASSED CASE DISMISSED. I DID NOT HAVE THE TEST SCORES TO BISHOP - I WAS TOO UPSET ABOUT THE WHOLE AFFAIR

I WAS ACCUSED IN A LETTER SENT TO BISHOP BY SEVERAL COLLEGE STUDENTS - ALL THE OTHERS WERE ACCUSED, BUT I COULD NOT MAKE IT OUT BECAUSE ALL NAMES BUT MINE WERE BLACKED OUT

1) ACCUSED ME OF GIVING HIM A PASSION - we had many left behind by those who left

2) ANOTHER SAID I TOLD HIM HE WAS HANDSOME

3) ANOTHER - SAID I HUGGED + KISSED ON RETURNING FROM A SCHOOL VACATION.

I KNOW OF NO STUDENT WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE I WAS NEVER INFORMED ABOUT THIS - NOR DO I

KNOW WHEN THIS WAS PLACED IN MY FILE & WHY IT WAS PLACED. THIS IS THE FIRST I AM HEARING ABOUT THIS + I AM SHAKEN BY IT

FOR THE LAST 18 OR 19 YEARS I HAVE RECEIVED NO COMMUNICATION FROM DIOCESE EXCEPT ONE LETTER OF CONDOLENCE FOR THE DEATH OF TWO BROTHERS WEEKS APART FROM EACH OTHER - IT WAS NOT FROM BISHOP HIMSELF BUT FROM ONE OF PRIEST SECRETARIES IN HIS OFFICE.

I WAS ALSO ACCUSED BY BISHOP FOR ABUSING A BLACK STUDENT. I TOLD HIM DURING MY TIME AT ST. MARKS WE NEVER HAD A BLACK STUDENT

MY TIME AT ST LUKES WAS VERY POSITIVE - LEARN MUCH ABOUT BY BRINGING UP IN A CLOSE KMIT ITALIAN FAM. + EXTENDED FAMILY. I WAS VERY LACKING IN SETTING UP BOUNDARIES + I LEARNED MUCH ABOUT EMPATHY

WHEN I RETURNED HOME FROM ST LUKES - I GOT INVOLVED IN ESTABLISH A SOGG KITCHEN - CALLED THE FRIENDSHIP TABLE I WAS INVOLVED FOR 21 YRS THIS YEAR. I WAS ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES - I COOKED FOR THE TABLE FOR 4 YR. AFTER THAT VOLUNTEERING - RUN IT DIOCESE PUT OUT PUBLIC WEB PAGE. I RESIGNED FROM THE BOARD + VOLUNTEERING

ON OCT 30 - 1916 I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER HAD A RADICAL MASTECTOMY ON LEFT SE. HAD 18 WEEKS OF HEAVY CHEMO + 6 WEEKS OF RADIATION - BURNED BADLY - HAD 4 WEEKS RECOVERY FROM BURNS. SEE MY ONCOLOGIST EVERY THREE MOS. AS TO OTHER JUVENILES - MENTIONED - I WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE ANOTHER LIE DETECTOR TEST.

Salvatore P. Luzzi
May 13th 1918

I had a formal RECONCILIATION mtg with my first case. I
THIS HAPPENED A FEW WEEKS AFTER I RETURNED
FROM ST. LUKES. Bishop TRAUTMAN + Bob Smith ~~and~~ accompanied me.
Victim + wife were there represented by his
religious counselor. I believe he was also a minister
He conducted the whole mtg. After going over all the
grievances, I ask the victim if I could ask for his
forgiveness - He gave me that permission to do so. I
was granted - we said a prayer + shook hands. His wife
hugged me + kissed me. The ~~par~~ Bishop offered to pay
for any counseling - for as long as he needed it
No money was ever mentioned in this mtg. I only know
it by your report. Later on after working as cook
for 30+ yrs, I pd compensation to the diocese - for
this counseling - I don't see this in your report.

Regarding Camp Notre Dame

I WAS NEVER ASSIGNED, NOR WORKED THERE
I WAS NOT EVER INVOLVED WITH MURK. AMX
I NEVER MET WITH HIM OR COUNSELED HIM. THIS WAS
NOT DISCUSSED WITH ME EVER
After Amy was ordained - 6 or 7 yrs later
I became aware of the situation (his abuse)
because at that time I was on the Personnel
Board of the Diocese. therefore - my comments
about him on his laization application

REGARDING 18yr old IN HARDWARE STORE.

THIS YOUNG MAN REPORTED ME TO THE POLICE & OUR LOCAL DEAN - WHO REPORTED IT TO BISHOP - THE ACCUSATION I

TOUCHED ON SHOULDER & BUTS TRY TO MAKE A PASS AT.

I WENT TO AN ATTORNEY - DAN HARTLE

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THE TEST WAS ADMINISTERED IN THE LAW OFFICE

CONFERENCE ROOM - WITH THE SMETHPORT POLICE OUTSIDE OF THE DOOR. I WAS TOLD BY THE ADMINISTRATOR THAT I PASSED WITH A HIGH PERCENTAGE. I DID NOT HAVE THE ATTORNEY SEND RESULTS TO BISHOP TRAUTMAN - I WAS TOO

TRAUMATIZED & UPSET

I WAS ACCUSED IN A LETTER SENT TO THE BISHOP BY SEVERAL COLLEGE STUDENT - IT LISTED 4 OTHER - BUT ALL NAMES WERE BLACKENED OUT

- 1) ACCUSED ME OF GIVING HIM A ASSOCK - WE HAD MANY LEFT BEHIND BY THOSE WHO LEFT SEMINARY
- 2) AN OTHER SAID TOLD HIM HE WAS HANDSOME
- 3) + 3RD SAID I HUGGED & KISSED ON RETURNING FROM A SCHOOL BREAK

I KNOW OF NO STUDENT WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE

I WAS NEVER INFORMED OF THIS NOR DO I KNOW WHEN THIS HAPPENED - NOR DO I KNOW WHEN THIS WAS PLACED IN MY FILE. THIS IS THE FIRST I AM HEARING ABOUT THIS - I AM TROUBLED AND SHAKENED ABOUT IT.

FOR THE LAST 18 OR 19 yrs I HAVE RECEIVED NO COMMUNICATION FROM THE DIOCESE - EXCEPT A LETTER OF CONDOLENCE AFTER THE DEATHS OF 2 OF MY BROTHERS WHO WERE A PART. IT WAS NOT FROM THE BISHOP, BUT FROM ONE HIS DEPT HEAD - SOME TIME AFTERWARDS

I WAS ALSO ACCUSED BY BISHOP OF ABUSING A BLACK STUDENT; I TOLD HIM DURING MY TIME AT ST. MARK'S WE NEVER HAD A BLACK STUDENT

MY TIME AT ST. LAURENCE WAS VERY POSITIVE. I LEARNED MUCH ABOUT MY BRINGING UP IN A CLOSELY KNIT FAM. MY PARENTS WERE BORN IN ITALY. I WAS VERY TACKLING IN SETTING UP BOUNDARIES & LEARNED MUCH ABOUT EMPATHY

WHEN I RETURNED HOME AFTER RESIGNATION FROM PARISH & REMOVED FROM MINISTRY. I GOT INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING A SOUP KITCHEN IN BEDFORD CALLED THE FRIENDSHIP TABLE. I WAS INVOLVED FOR 21 YRS THIS YR. I WAS ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. I COOKED FOR THEM FOR 4 YRS. VOLUNTEERING AS HOST. AFTER DIOCESE PUBLISH THE RECENT WEB SITE - I RETIRED FROM BOARD & VOLUNTEERING

ON OCT 30 2016 I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER

I HAD A RADICAL MASTECTOMY OF LEFT SIDE - HAD 18 WKS OF HEAVY X CHEMO & 6 WKS OF RADIATION - BARELY 3 WKS BURN RECOVERY I SEE MY ONCOLOGIST EVERY 3 MOS.

AS TO OTHER JUVENILE ALLEGATIONS. I WILL BE WILLING TO TAKE ANOTHER LIE DETECTOR

SALVATORE PLUZZI
MAY 13-1916