

Reverend Charles Procopio

Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	1927
YEAR OF DEATH:	1997
ORDINATION:	May 10, 1956

Employment/Assignment History

5/25/1956-8/01/1956	St. Theresa's Church, New Cumberland, PA
8/01/1956-4/09/1959	St. Joseph, Danville, PA
4/09/1959-12/14/1961	St. Anthony of Padua, Lancaster, PA
12/14/1961-10/02/1962	St. Andrew, Waynesboro, PA
10/02/1962-12/11/1964	St. Joan of Arc, Hershey, PA
12/11/1964-10/12/1967	Sacred Heart of Jesus, Harrisburg, PA
10/12/1967-5/31/1968	Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary, Lancaster, PA
5/31/1968-6/04/1971	St. Rita, Fairfield, PA
6/04/1971-8/10/1979	St. Peter, Mount Carmel, PA
8/10/1979-7/28/1983	Holy Name of Jesus, Harrisburg, PA
7/28/1983-5/30/1984	St. Joseph, Hanover, PA
5/30/1984-2/04/1991	Christ the King, Benton, PA
2/04/1991-1/11/1994	St. Casimir, Kulpmont, PA
1/11/1994-6/28/1995	Villa Vianney/Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
6/28/1995	Retired

Summary

Diocese of Harrisburg documents reveal an allegation of sexual abuse was made against Father Charles Procopio in October 1965. Father McAndrew wrote a memorandum dated October 18, 1965, which stated he was informed via a telephone call that Procopio had molested girls in the seventh and eighth grades at Sacred Heart of Jesus in Harrisburg. The person who made the report to McAndrew stated the girls told the principal of the school about the molestation, but nothing happened in response to the report. McAndrew described one allegation of abuse as "immodest touches." He detailed how Procopio kissed the girls and felt their breasts. Procopio pressed one girl against the wall in the rectory and touched the girl "in an immodest manner" and he made motions simulating intercourse while his body was pressed against the girl. Procopio touched another girl in an "indecent manner" in a school hallway, which caused her to scream. A teacher heard the scream and found her in the hallway frightened.

The person making this report in 1965 stated "*if nothing were done about this matter, he would be forced to take it to the police. However, he says that he would do nothing without consulting with the Chancery Office.*"

Summary

The next day, on October 19, 1965, McGovern reviewed McAndrew's memorandum regarding Procopio. McGovern noted,

"Father Propocio's so-called immodest touches were actually manifestations of his effusive nature, imprudent but pure on his part. We also agree that the touches were not objectively immoral but only interpreted as such by pre-adolescent girls."

He also wrote they

"concluded that the more recent actions received a distorted interpretation in the highly imaginative minds of pubescent girls."

The memorandum from 1965 also provided that McGovern spoke with Procopio regarding the complaint. McGovern explained to Procopio that

"a girl of that age is so conscious of her womanhood that she feels all other people likewise are constantly noticing it all the times. She considers any touch a 'sex' touch. The pre-adolescent girl indulges in fantasy quite often."

The Diocese of Harrisburg allowed Procopio to stay in ministry.