

# Monsignor Gerald J. Burns

## Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	1924
YEAR OF DEATH:	1999
ORDINATION:	June 3, 1950

## Employment/Assignment History

6/1950 – 9/1950	Asst. Pastor, St. Ann, Shohola, PA
9/1950 – 9/1950	Asst. Pastor, St. Patrick, Wilkes-Barre, PA
9/1950 – 6/1952	Asst. Pastor, St. John, Honesdale, PA
6/1952 – 6/1953	Asst. Pastor, St. Peter, Wellsboro, PA
6/1953 – 9/1962	Asst. Pastor, St. John the Evangelist, Wilkes-Barre, PA
9/1962 – 9/1968	Asst. Pastor, St. Dominic, Wilkes-Barre, PA
9/1968 – 9/1970	Chaplain, Mercy Heights Hospital, Scranton, PA
9/1970 – 6/1982	Pastor, Blessed Sacraments, Wilkes-Barre, PA
6/1982 – 9/1984	Pastor, St. Gabriel, Hazleton, PA
9/1984 – 1/1994	Pastor, St. John the Evangelist, Pittston, PA
1/24/1994	Retired
1/1994	Pastor Emeritus, St. John the Evangelist, Pittston, PA

## Summary

On January 11, 1994, Bishop James C. Timlin received a letter from a woman who advised that her husband was sexually molested for years by Monsignor Gerald J. Burns during the time when he was an altar server at St. John's in the 1950's.

On January 17, 1994, Timlin spoke to Burns and he denied any wrongdoing. Timlin suggested that it would be best for him to retire. Burns agreed. Timlin accepted the resignation effective January 24, 1994

On January 21, 1994, Timlin sent a letter to the victim and his wife apologizing for the pain and hurt that the victim had experienced. He advised that Burns had resigned and would never be assigned to another parish again. Timlin pledged to help both of them.

On February 15, 1994, Timlin notified the victim that the Diocese would assume responsibility for the cost for his counseling. This responsibility was to be shared with Burns.

On April 26, 1996, Timlin notified the victim that he had to bring some closure to the Diocese's payments for his therapy.

On June 10, 1996, Timlin wrote a note wherein he indicated that he contacted the attorney who represented the victim and requested that the attorney return his call. He also noted that he

## **Summary**

had spoken with the victim and his wife, informing them that Burns had agreed to continue to pay for counseling for the victim, without any admission of guilt. An arrangement was made whereby the bills would be sent to the Chancery, who, in turn, would bill Burns. The victim and his wife agreed to this arrangement.

In 1999, Burns passed away. Nothing could be located in the files to indicate that any further assistance was provided to the victim after this event occurred.