

# Reverend Austin E. Flanagan

## Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	1941
YEAR OF DEATH:	N/A
ORDINATION:	May 28, 1966

## Employment/Assignment History

6/1966 – 9/1966	Parochial Vicar, Queen of Peace, Hawley, PA
9/1966 – 9/1969	Parochial Vicar, Nativity of BVM, Tunkhannock, PA
9/1969 – 9/1971	Parochial Vicar, St. Mary's, Avoca, PA
9/1971 – 9/1973	Parochial Vicar, St. Ignatius, Kingston, PA
9/1973 – 9/1975	Parochial Vicar, St. Mary, Avoca, PA
9/1975 – 9/1979	Chaplain, Little Flower Manor, Wilkes-Barre, PA
9/1979 – 9/1980	Pastor, St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkland, PA
9/1980 – 6/1982	Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi, Mildred, PA
6/1982 – 9/1985	Pastor, St. Mark, Inkerman, PA
9/1985 – 9/1986	Pastor, St. Agnes, Forest City, PA
9/1986 – 4/1990	Pastor, Blessed Sacrament & St. John the Baptist, Wilkes-Barre, PA
4/1990 – 6/1990	Sick Leave
6/1990 – 6/1993	Residence, St. Thomas Aquinas, Archbald, PA
6/1993 – 7/1994	Residence, St. Lucy, Scranton, PA
7/1994 – 7/1998	Residence, Most Precious Blood, Hazleton, PA Chaplain, St. Joseph Medical Center, Hazleton, PA
7/1998 – 9/1999	Residence, St. Francis of Assisi, West Hazleton, PA Chaplain, St. Joseph Medical Center, Hazleton, PA
7/2002	Removed from active ministry

## Summary

On September 11, 1980, Bishop J. Carroll McCormick received a letter from a parishioner who advised that the parishioners were disgusted with Father Austin E. Flanagan. The letter stated that Flanagan would not let anyone in the rectory and that he was sleeping in sleeping bags with young boys.

On June 27, 1990, Bishop James C. Timlin received a letter from Dr. Richard D. Malone, Associate Medical Director, St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in Harrison, New York concerning Flanagan. The letter was sent upon the request of, and with the permission of, Flanagan himself.

Flanagan related that approximately one month prior to his admission to St. Vincent's Hospital, he had been questioned about fondling two boys at a summer camp two years earlier.

## **Summary**

The boys had reported it to another priest who, in turn, reported it to Timlin. Flanagan told Malone that he did not deny what happened. However, he stated, "I thought they were asleep and also I had a lot to drink." Flanagan acknowledge that several other similar instances in the past had occurred.

There was no information in the files concerning the identity of the two boys.

On July 3, 2002, Flanagan was removed from active ministry.

In June, 2005, the Diocese was contacted by a 34-year-old male who claimed that he was sodomized by Flanagan in the rectory at St. Mary's in 1973 when he was 11-years-old. Flanagan was questioned by Father Kopacz and denied any wrongdoing.

On June 27, 2005, the Diocese of Scranton reported the allegation to the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office.

On May 6, 2016, the Diocese sent a certified letter to each of the District Attorney's Offices within the Diocese. The letter included a list that contained the names of all priests against whom complaints of sexual abuse of minors had been made. Flanagan's name was on the list and several victims were identified.