

Reverend Benedict J. Van der Putten

Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	Unknown
YEAR OF DEATH:	Unknown
ORDINATION:	Unknown

Employment/Assignment History

Not Applicable

Summary

While in Los Gatos, California, van der Putten had “indecent acts” with a 15-year-old girl and attempted the same with another girl, age 17. (*no description of acts*) This occurred around 2000.

He was immediately sent to the International Headquarters for the Society of St. Pius X in Switzerland. He was sent on sabbatical to the island monastery in Orkney Islands of Scotland. While in Ireland, he was expelled from the Society.

In 2001, he became a member of the Society of Saint John and worked in relations with the Diocese of Scranton. When Bishop James C. Timlin sent the paperwork to Rome for van der Putten to be “regularized” with the Diocese of Scranton, Rome reported the sexual abuse allegation made by the Society of St. Pius X. In 2001 Bishop Timlin was notified that there was a past sexual abuse allegation against van der Putten while in California. In 2002, van der Putten was interviewed by Timlin and other Diocesan administrators. Van der Putten admitted involvement with a 16-year-old girl. He advised he kissed her and caressed her breast. He also exposed his genitalia. Van der Putten claimed there was “nothing erotic” about the encounter, just attempts “to build trust”.

Timlin sent van der Putten for evaluation at the Southdown Institute in Ontario. In a report written by Diocesan officials, they summarized the evaluation of van der Putten. He admitted to recently fondling a young woman he met while on Christmas vacation in 2001. The Southdown Institute found van der Putten had “predatory behavior.” The Diocese received a call from a woman in January, 2002. She reported van der Putten molested her 18-year-old daughter in December, 2001. This woman tracked van der Putten to Sacramento, California where he was giving liturgy. The Diocese noted in a report documenting the woman’s complaint that van der Putten had a “Celebret” from the Congregation in Rome, Ecclesiae Dei, which provided him, with legitimacy, to engage in liturgy.

In 2002, Timlin advised van der Putten he would not be given faculties with the Diocese of Scranton. In December 2003, a memorandum went out to all bishops by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Office of the General Secretary advising that van der Putten

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was a former member of the Society of St. Pius X and that he did not have faculties in the Diocese of Scranton due to admitted sexual misconduct.

Van der Putten is using a website, www.paxvobis.org, to advertise his availability for conferences, retreats and youth camps while stating he is a priest in good standing. He is also asking for Mass stipends.

The Diocese of Scranton did not have any contact with van der Putten after April 2002.