

Reverend Dennis Chludzinski

Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	1946
YEAR OF DEATH:	N/A
ORDINATION:	May 14, 1976

Employment/Assignment History

6/05/1976 – 6/02/1977	Sacred Heart, Sharon, PA
6/03/1977 – 1/23/1978	Holy Rosary, Erie, PA
1/24/1978 – 6/30/1979	Leave of Absence
7/01/1979 – 8/24/1980	Unassigned / Under Father Kelly's Supervision
8/25/1980 – 6/00/1984	Faculty at Villa Maria High School Erie, PA St. Benedict's Academy Erie, PA Mercyhurst Preparatory Erie, PA
6/00/1984 – 10/08/1984	Attending Gannon University, Our Lady of Mercy
10/09/1985 – 8/31/1986	No Information provided by the Diocese of Erie
9/01/1986 - 8/02/1987	Chaplain, Sisters Community at Mercyhurst College, Hamot Medical Center

Summary

The Grand Jury reviewed the files of the Diocese of Erie with respect to Father Dennis Chludzinski. The record contained evidence that the Diocese became aware of sexual misconduct by Chludzinski as early as 1984 that occurred while he was on the faculty of Villa Maria High School.

In notarized testimony to the Diocese of Erie, Chludzinski admitted that in 1984, while he was assigned as a Chaplain at Mercyhurst High School, he had inappropriate sexual contact with an 18-year-old boy in his senior year. He stated that the abuse occurred in 1984, possibly extending into 1985. In a letter dated January 30, 1991 addressed to Bishop Donald Trautman and detailing his progress in therapy, Chludzinski admitted that he and a friend engaged in sexual contact with an 18-year-old male from his high school. This included mutual masturbation and oral sex. The sexual contact occurred approximately four times.

Similarly, in notarized testimony, Chludzinski admitted that after being granted a leave from the Chaplain position at Mercyhurst High School, he became sexually involved with a 14-year-old boy for approximately nine months. He stated that this abuse occurred in 1984 and possibly 1985. The victim said that Chludzinski introduced him to his homosexual lifestyle.

Finally, a letter dated July 26, 2004 to Monsignor Robert J. Smith, Vicar General, from Monsignor Mark L. Bartchak reported that a father recently discovered that Chludzinski had molested his young son years ago during a camping trip. A file note dated September 20, 2004,

Summary

written by Smith, records that he and Bartchak met with the victim on September 17, 2004. The victim reported that he met Chludzinski while he was an altar boy at Our Lady of Mercy. He said that Chludzinski kissed him, touched his genitals, and engaged in oral sex with him on at least one occasion. On another occasion, Chludzinski shoved his hands down the victim's pants while driving a car. The abuse happened for about six months between the years 1983 and 1985 and occurred approximately six times. The victim reported that another altar boy was also abused.

On October 1, 2004, Bishop Trautman notified the Erie County District Attorney's Office of the allegation.

In a memorandum to file dated October 2, 2004, Bishop Trautman memorialized that he had called and informed Chludzinski of the allegation. Chludzinski replied, "Sorry." A second handwritten note by Trautman stated, "*On Oct. 6 Dennis Chuldzinski called and admitted sexual involvement with (the victim).*"