

Reverend Thomas C. Kelley

Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	1943
YEAR OF DEATH:	2005
ORDINATION:	December 21, 1967

Employment/Assignment History

7/25/1968 – 7/16/1972	Parochial Vicar, St. Peter Cathedral, Erie, PA
7/16/1972 – 3/17/1978	Special Ministry, St. Mark's Seminary, Erie, PA
7/16/1972 – 5/05/1979	Weekend Asst., Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek, PA
3/17/1979 – 5/05/1979	Special Ministry, St. Mark's Seminary, Erie, PA
5/05/1979 – 9/01/1985	Special Ministry, St. Mark's Seminary, Erie, PA
9/01/1985 – 6/30/1989	Dean, North American College, Rome, Italy
8/28/1989 – 3/27/1990	Administrator, St. Michael, Greenville, PA
3/27/1990 – 6/15/1994	Pastor, St. Michael, Greenville, PA
3/01/1992 – 6/15/1994	Diocesan Review Board
6/15/1994 – 12/31/1995	Leave of Absence, Odessa, TX/Erie, PA
9/18/1995 – 9/22/1995	Psychological Assessment, Southdown Treatment Center, Canada
4/1996 – 9/1996	Residential Treatment, Southdown Center, Aurora, Ontario, Canada
9/06/1994 – 12/31/1996	Pastor, St. Agnes, Ft. Stockton, TX
12/31/1995 – 3/31/1995	Chaplain, Holy Faith Monastery
3/31/1996 – 11/25/1996	Assigned to Diocese of San Angelo, TX
11/25/1996 – 1/01/2001	Incarnated into Diocese of San Angelo, TX
2/21/2005	Death

Summary

Reverend Thomas C. Kelley served two different dioceses in two states, as well as in Europe, over the course of his 30 year career. He was accused of inappropriate sexual conduct with at least five victims and was named in a lawsuit that paid one sexual assault victim \$34,500. His victims of choice were eighteen to twenty-five-year-old males in high school or in seminary. Kelley engaged in mutual masturbation, oral, and anal sex with his victims.

Although the Diocesan records do not reflect which one of his victims' complaints prompted the Diocese to send him to psychotherapy, in the fall of 1995 Kelley was sent to the Southdown Center in Aurora, Ontario, Canada. Southdown is an inpatient residential treatment facility that specializes in treating men and women in ministry. Kelley was sent there for a week-long assessment period. Per this assessment, it was determined that Kelley should have a restricted ministry that kept him away from young parishioners. Kelley disagreed with this assessment and asked Bishop Trautman to send him to a different facility for a second opinion.

Summary

A physician from DuBois, Pennsylvania saw Kelley in 1996 and in March of that year agreed with the course of action that Southdown recommended. Soon afterward, Kelley was sent to Southdown for several months of treatment. After his release, Kelley traveled to Odessa, Texas to take some time off and meet with an old friend with whom he attended seminary. He reported to Trautman that he had reflected on his conduct while in Odessa and decided that he was not ready to quit serving God. According to the documents, Kelley became interested in staying in active ministry in the West Texas area during this time period. Over the course of the next several years Kelley spent most of his time in the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas as a priest in that Diocese. It was found that Bishop Trautman had told Kelley that if he returned to the Erie Diocese, he would need to be assigned a severely restricted ministry. Faced with this harsh restriction, Kelley asked to be assigned full time in Texas by permission of Trautman and Bishop Michael Pfeifer of the Diocese of San Angelo. Both Bishops agreed to Kelley's request. In their correspondence, Trautman and Pfeifer often referenced telephone conversations they had about Kelley and his troubled past.

During his visits to Erie during this period, Kelley also had some interaction with a licensed social worker and therapist in the Erie area. She would confer with Trautman, Kelley, and Pfeifer on Kelley's treatment plan. She questioned Kelley's suitability to be a priest and, in an e-mail message to Trautman, she wrote, "*If Tom Kelley has in fact been a predator, I think it is time he is removed from the priesthood.*" In another e-mail she advised Trautman that, "*I think it is time to ensure that Tom Kelley (although in Texas) no longer abuses children.*" She also criticized Pfeifer, writing, "*it appears to me that he did not take responsibility to ensure the safety of those under his care.*"

Kelley passed away in February, 2005.