

Two priests cross paths in Spokane

For nearly two years in the mid-1970s, William S. Skylstad and Patrick Gerald O'Donnell Jr. worked and lived together in a Spokane parish. Skylstad was on his way to being named Spokane's bishop. O'Donnell was a sexually abusive priest who would be removed from ministry a decade later.



William S. Skylstad

(2002 photo)

1960

Ordained as priest

1960-1974

Seminary teacher and rector; assistant pastor and pastor in Pullman and Colbert, Spokane County.

1974-76

Pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Spokane

1976-77

Chancellor, Spokane diocese

1977-90

Bishop, Yakima diocese

1990-

present
Bishop, Spokane diocese

2001

Elected vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000



Patrick Gerald O'Donnell Jr.

(1978 photo)

1971-74

Assistant pastor in three Spokane parishes; also assigned to do youth work.

1974-76

Associate pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Spokane

1976-78

Received sexual-deviancy treatment in Seattle; worked at parish in Rainier Beach neighborhood; earned doctorate in psychology

1978-85

Returned to Spokane diocese and worked mostly as a pastor in rural parishes

1986

Removed from active ministry

2004

Surrendered psychology license

Source: Court and Spokane diocese records

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