

Thomas Paul Adamson



Thomas Adamson was born on July 12, 1933 in Rochester, Minnesota. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Winona on May 31, 1958. During his tenure, Thomas Adamson was assigned to the following parishes and locations during his time as a priest with the Diocese of Winona:

June 13, 1958 - Saint Casimir, Winona, MN
June 13, 1958 - Cotter High School, Winona, MN
June 16, 1961 - Saint Adrian, Adrian, MN
June 16, 1961 - Saint Adrian High School, Adrian, MN
August 16, 1962 - Lourdes High School, Rochester, MN
August 20, 1963 - Saint John's, Caledonia, MN
November 30, 1964 - Lourdes High School, Rochester, MN
June 8, 1966 - Saint Clement, Hammond, MN
June 15, 1967 - Saint Theodore, Albert Lea, MN
August 14, 1968 - Saint Lawrence, Fountain, MN and Saint Kilian, Wykoff, MN
June 24, 1971 - Saint Francis of Assisi, Rochester, MN
June 17, 1976 - Saint Thomas Aquinas, Saint Paul Park, MN
June 13, 1979 - Immaculate Conception Church, Columbia Heights, MN
February 2, 1981 – Church of the Risen Savior, Apple Valley, MN
December 22, 1984 – Permanently removed from the ministry
March 2, 2009 – Decree of Laicization

The Diocese of Winona first became aware of any complaints regarding Thomas Adamson in 1964 while he was a Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Pastor of St. John's in Caledonia. The complaint was taken by a priest and forwarded to Bishop Edward Fitzgerald (who was in Rome at the time the complaint was made). Upon Bishop Fitzgerald's return Thomas Adamson was subsequently reassigned to serve as Assistant Principal at Lourdes High School, and Pastor at St. Francis of Assisi Parish and school in Rochester, Minnesota.

In late December, 1973, Bishop Loras Watters received an anonymous complaint that Thomas Adamson might be inappropriately involved with minors. As a result, Bishop Watters summoned Thomas Adamson for a psychological evaluation. Thomas Adamson subsequently was sent to an in-patient treatment therapy program in Hartford, Connecticut and was admitted June 4, 1974.

Thomas Adamson successfully completed his treatment in Hartford and returned to the Diocese of Winona in August of 1974. He continued therapy on an outpatient basis at the Consultation Services Center in St. Paul, Minnesota. At that time he also began a Master's level family counseling program with the University of Minnesota. He was officially removed from his position as Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish on January 1, 1975.

Thomas Adamson continued his therapy at the Consultation Center and his Master's coursework in St. Paul, Minnesota until the successful completion of his degree in May of 1975. During that time arrangements were made with the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for Thomas Adamson's residence at an Archdiocesan parish where he celebrated weekend liturgies and shared some adult education responsibilities. After he received his Master's diploma, Thomas Adamson's counselor recommended that, because of the progress he had made in his treatment and his commitment to continuing such therapy, that Thomas Adamson be reassigned to parish ministry. He was subsequently directed to serve as Associate Pastor at the Church of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Paul Park, Minnesota, where he remained until 1979.

In June of 1979, Thomas Adamson was assigned to serve as Parish Administrator at Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights, Minnesota. In November of 1980, priests within the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis received reports that Thomas Adamson had acted inappropriately with the youth of the parish, and the matter was brought to the attention of the Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Thomas Adamson was removed from the Church of Immaculate Conception, submitted to a psychological evaluation, and was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital January 4, 1981. After completing treatment, his supervising psychologist recommended that he be returned to ministry.

During February of 1981, Thomas Adamson was appointed to serve as Associate Pastor at the Church of the Risen Savior in Apple Valley, Minnesota. During this time he continued to receive regular counseling. During July, 1984, the Archdiocese received information that Thomas Adamson had sexually abused a minor during the years 1978-1982.

On December 22, 1984, Thomas Adamson took a leave of absence to attend extensive in-patient treatment at the St. Michael's Center of the Servants of the Paraclete, St. Louis, Missouri. His priestly faculties were permanently removed at that time, and he has not been assigned to or served in any parish ministry since. Pope Benedict XVI issued a Decree of Laicization, dispensing Thomas Adamson from the obligations of the clerical state on March 2, 2009.

The Diocese of Winona has received 36 accusations of child sexual abuse by Thomas Adamson.