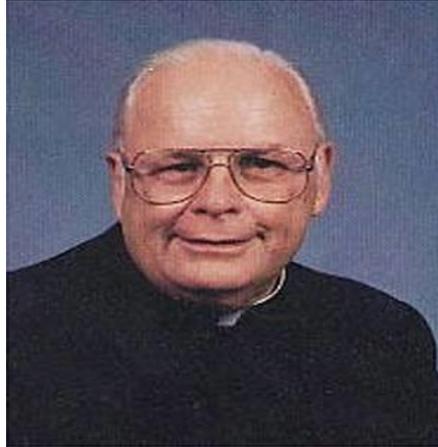


FR. ROBERT PETER BOWMAN



By the time Peter Bowman retired in 2001, he had an enviable career as priest. A popular pastor, Bowman also held some of the most powerful positions in the Archdiocese of Chicago, including Vicar for Administration and Moderator for the Curia. A chief deputy priest to both Cardinals George and Bernardin, Bowman was a power player and assumed that his retirement would be a calm end to an enviable career.

By his death in 2011, he had been accused of abuse by 11 children, put on confusing and bureaucratic “monitoring protocols,” and was in the process of being laicized because he could not stop downloading porn, leaving his home, and spending time where children were present.

Bowman’s case is a prime example of the failings of Archdiocese monitoring protocols, which were little more than mountains of paperwork. Punishment for non-compliance was minimal since the Archdiocese’s ability to enforce the monitoring protocols was so deficient.

By 2008 the Archdiocese began to view monitoring as “risk management.” Interviews with Bowman showed that he was stubborn and intentionally violating protocols.

In 2010, after the Archdiocese received the 11th allegation of abuse, George began to pursue laicization in earnest. Although at the time Bowman was ill and dying, George petitioned the Vatican due to Bowman’s defiance to George’s orders, one of the punishments for not following monitoring protocols.

Bowman died in 2011. Until the release of these files, the Archdiocese told the public that Bowman had abused “more than one” child.

Monitoring began in 2002 after the second allegation of abuse against Bowman was considered “credible.” Monitors included his sister (Bowman was told to leave her home after his nieces and nephews complained to the Archdiocese) and Archdiocese enabler Bishop Raymond Goedert. Bowman was considered “out of compliance” until his 2011 death, due to the fact that he downloaded pornography, left his residence without permission, held himself out to be a priest, sat in his room in his underwear with the door open, and went to homes where children were present.

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS

5/3/55 - Ordained

7/7/55 - Associate Pastor at St. Denis

7/5/61 – Assistant Pastor at St. Lawrence O’Toole

5/16/66 – Assistant Pastor at Our Lady of Victory

6/20/69 – Assistant Director, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; Resident at St. Timothy Parish,

10/9/78 – Pastor, St. James

4/1/84 – Dean of Deanery

7/21/95 – Moderator of the Curia; Resident at St. Teresa of Avila

2/4/98 Appointed Cardinal George’s liaison to the Consultative Bodies. (AOC007271)

8/1/00 – Administrator, St. Teresa of Avila, Chicago, IL; Dean of Deanery

8/11/00 Report of abuse by Bowman shared with Bishop Goedert and Cardinal George. (AOC007276)

9/26/00 Review Board found allegation against Bowman did not constitute sexual misconduct or inappropriate behavior, but was rather “foolish horseplay”. (AOC 007286)

1/22/01 Appointed Dean of Deanery II-D by Cardinal George. Handwritten note says “keep in touch!” (AOC007290)

3/20/01 – Pastor Emeritus at St. James

6/15/01 Memo from Fr. Kaczorowski recounting his call with Fr. Hoffman, the pastor at St. Teresa, where Bowman resides. Bowman engaged in “obvious boundary violations”, including touching someone in the crotch area three times. Bowman admitted that he saw nothing wrong with kissing on the lips. (AOC007304)

5/22/02 Review Board voted 5-1 that reasonable cause exists to suspect that sexual misconduct with a minor occurred. The Board recommended that Bowman be removed from parish ministry. (AOC007334)

5/28/02 Bowman removed from ministry and residence at St. Teresa’s. (AOC007342)

7/11/03 After a canonical investigation Leah McCluskey recommends that the allegation of sexual misconduct against Bowman is truthful. (AOC007505-06)

7/14/03 Cardinal George accepts McCluskey’s findings and refers Bowman’s case to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. (AOC007507)

11/16/03 Report of abuse by Bowman. (AOC007549)

3/15/04 Fr. Goedert serving as Bowman's monitor. (AOC007580)

2001 -Retired

2005-2011 Archdiocese received 9 more allegations of abuse.

April 2011- Died