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Former Taylor priest who was removed amid child sex allegations has died

By Jason Alley jalley@thenewsherald.com Jan 10, 2018



The Rev. Edmund Borycz Photo courtesy Temrowski and Sons Funeral Home
Digital First Media

A well-known priest who served at a Taylor church from the mid-1970s through 1989 and later was removed from the ministry after investigations into alleged sexual misconduct of a child has died.

The Rev. Edmund Borycz died Monday, Jan. 8, at the age of 76, according to a statement from the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Borycz served at the former St. Cyril of Jerusalem Catholic Church, now known as Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church.

Allegations against Borycz include the molestation of a then 13-year-old boy in the rectory at St. Cyril in 1983. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and Taylor police first heard about the incident in 1987.

Then, Taylor police had presented a warrant request against Borycz for the alleged criminal sexual conduct with the boy. A former assistant prosecutor reviewed the request, denied it and directed Taylor police to seal their file without contacting the archdiocese.

Before coming to St. Cyril, Borycz spent five years as associate pastor of SS. Peter and Paul in Detroit.

On April 26, 2002, the archdiocese gave civil authorities a report of a different man who said he was sexually molested by Borycz when, as a 13-year-old, he slept overnight at the SS. Peter and Paul rectory in 1970.

After investigators from the prosecutor's office interviewed the alleged victim from 1970 and found him to be credible, they began interviewing at St. Cyril, where they learned of the 1987 warrant request. But by that time, the prosecutor's office had no record of it.

According to a copy of the file that Taylor police gave prosecutors, in 1987 a 19-year-old who tried to commit suicide ended up in treatment. At that facility he confided to a social worker that he had been sexually molested by his pastor, Borycz, while staying at St. Cyril's rectory.

The social worker reported the matter to police, who then presented the warrant request to the prosecutor.

In 2002, investigators interviewed the alleged victim of the 1987 incident, who gave a detailed account of being sexually molested by Borycz. Both victims' details were very similar. At the time, investigators considered both victims credible.

While in Taylor, Borycz made an impact on the community. When installed as pastor, he was widely known for his work with the mentally retarded.

He also was a police chaplain in Taylor and was sent to an FBI hostage negotiations school.

He was released to the archdiocese for military service in 1989, after enlisting in the Army. He became one of only 148 priests worldwide who ministered to the military. By 1993, he held the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In 2001, he began serving St. Michael in Livonia. He was removed from his parish in 2002. In 2006, the Vatican removed him from all active ministry, which prohibited him from wearing clerical clothes or publicly presenting himself as a priest.

Visitation will take place from 3 to 9 p.m. Sunday at Temrowski and Sons Funeral Home, 30009 Hoover Road, Warren. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 1491 Baldwin St., Detroit. He will be buried in St. Roch Cemetery in Caseville.

Memorial donations can be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207.

Lena Khzouz contributed to this report.