

Father James Frederick

A predator is promoted

After numerous abuse allegations, he was promoted to school superintendent by Bishop Blanchette

Then, Blanchette allowed Frederick to teach and live in parishes, where he abused again

Allegations against serial molester Fr. James Frederick started soon after the priest's ordination in 1959. By 1965, he was considered a "challenge" that his psychologist "enjoyed." Any help Frederick received didn't last. By 1967, at least three more boys had come forward to say that the priest molested them. Frederick was placed on leave for less than a year.

Instead of calling the police or demanding that Frederick remain in a treatment setting, in 1968, Bishop Blanchette promoted Frederick to school superintendent and allowed the priest to continue to live in parishes. Soon, he was back teaching in schools, where he continued to abuse.

Throughout the rest of his career, Frederick was in and out of treatment for what was referred to as "problems with alcohol." He resigned from one parish in 1978 and discussed his "secret sex abuse file" in a 1982 letter when Frederick was working in a parish in Romeoville.

Frederick died in 1988.

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS – JAMES FREDERICK

1959 – Ordained

6/12/59 – Associate Pastor, St. Liborius, Steger

6/12/61 – Notre Dame, Clarendon Hills

9/1/65 – St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Lockport

8/6/65 Letter from psychologist to Msgr. Howard that Frederick "was a challenge that [he] enjoyed" (201)

5/67 Report of accusation by student, authorities were notified (209)

7/10/67 Frederick sexually abuses two boys at the seminary. Rector Kaffer takes the boys' statements individually (212, 213)

7/17/67 Memo from Kaffer to Bishop Blanchette stating that he confronted Frederick about trying to masturbate the boys when they were sleeping and Frederick stated this would have only been in the summer and while he was intoxicated. "He gave no indication of remorse, made no reference to the spiritual implications..." Kaffer writes that he has had negative doubts for nearly two years and talked to Msgr. Howard who told him of Frederick's difficulty at Quigley. (214)

9/1/67 – Leave of absence

- 10/23/67 Letter from Frederick to Blanchette that doctor informed him he could return to full and active work and asking to be considered for a chaplaincy at one of the high schools (217)
- 11/25/67 Letter from Frederick to Blanchette stating importance of residing in a school in which he is teaching or administration with some teaching (220)
- 11/28/67 Letter from Blanchette to Frederick asking for doctor's recommendations re: placement and asking Frederick how he feels about living in a rectory, very close to the school where he would teach. (223)

6/15/68 – Asst. Superintendent of Schools and Comptroller

1/31/69 – Pastor, St. Patrick, Wilton Center

2/1/72 – Pastor, St. Anthony, Frankfort

- 6/7/78 Letter from pastor to Blanchette that Frederick cleared for his ten day visit before he returns to Rochester for two weeks before his final release (279)
- 7/16/78 Letter from Frederick to Blanchette that he feels like he under constant supervision after their last meeting and will agree to an office position and resign from the parish (283 -284)
- 7/16/78 Letter from Frederick to Blanchette resigning from St. Anthony Church (286)
- 7/29/78 Letter from Frederick to Blanchette updating him on his activities. He writes that he has contacted an AA group and will be involved in weekend help in parishes that need it and asking to be granted faculties in Chicago (288-289)

8/6/78 – Comptroller, Diocesan Office in Joliet

6/2/80 Letter from Imesch to Frederick appointing him back to a parish (298)

6/19/80 – Pastor and Comptroller, St. Joseph's, Manhattan

7/12/82 – Director, Comptroller and Financial Administrator, St. Charles Center, Romeoville

Note from Frederick to Kaffer stating that he knows Kaffer put their visit in writing and if so to put it in the secret archives and that he has been hurt by both him and Imesch and telling him to burn this note. (341-342)

- 10/3/87 Letter from Frederick that he has located an AA meeting. Appears ties with Donnelly and Imesch are strained (343)

1988 - Died