

Father Lawrence “Larry” Mullins

Imesch “doesn’t care” if an abuser remains in ministry

He abused soon after ordination, but Diocese officials didn’t remove cleric for seven years after first reports

Father Lawrence “Larry” Mullins was called “Gacy” (for serial murderer John Wayne Gacy) at the schools and parishes where he worked. The name was suitable—Mullins was molesting children less than a year after his 1976 ordination. Even worse, he was using the confessional to find and abuse his victims.

Bishop Imesch first learned of Mullins’ behavior in 1986. But instead of calling the police or ensuring that Mullins was away from children, Imesch kept Mullins in his parish, where he continued to abuse.

By 1993, Auxiliary Bishop Kaffer could no longer keep the lid on allegations against Mullins. He told Imesch that the cleric needed to be moved to a residence for priests under treatment for abuse. The diocese had two at the time. In response, Imesch said he “didn’t care” if Mullins remained in ministry.

Soon, Mullins was placed on sick leave and parishioners were not informed of the allegations.

Mullins current whereabouts are unknown, although it’s believed he is in Illinois or Nebraska. There is no record of his laicization.

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS – LAWRENCE MULLINS

1977 – Ordained

10/15/77 – Associate pastor, Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet

1978 According to a 2004 complaint, Mullins sexually abused a minor student at St. Raymond elementary by engaging in fondling, masturbation and fellatio in the sacristy and rectory. (352)

1979 According to a 1995 report, Mullins sexually abused a seminarian during the sacrament of reconciliation and in the rectory. (235)

1979 A letter to Kaffer that Mullins hit on him and was shoving his hand down little boys’ pants in gym class. (246-247)

1978-1980 A 2002 lawsuit alleges that Mullins sexually abused five minors. (329)

6/15/83 – Associate Pastor, Immaculate Conception, Elmhurst

1986 According to a 2009 report, Mullins was touchy with a minor who worked in the rectory and would rub his chest, belly and inch his way towards his crotch. (399)

1986 According to a 2002 statement, allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor against Mullins were reported to Imesch in 11/1986. (329)

7/23/87 Memo from Kaffer to Imesch that he met with Mullins and believes he is ready to go. (203)

6/22/88 – Associate pastor, St. Margaret Mary, Naperville

1/4/93 Memo from Kaffer that he told Imesch that Mullins should be removed from the parish and reside at a non-parish place “perhaps one of Chicago’s two residences for priests with problems while getting evaluation and treatment” Imesch didn’t care whether Mullins remained in ministry. (205)

1/12/93 Memo from Kaffer that he met with the parents of a boy who reported that Mullins put his hand down his pants. Kaffer met with another boy who informed him that Mullins was known to the 8th grade boys as ‘Gacy’ and had grabbed his penis and that Mullins put his hand down the trunks of all the basketball team members. (204)

1/17/93 Memo from Kaffer that he met with someone who told him he engaged in mutual masturbation with Mullins less than 10 times in approximately 1981 just around the time the person graduated high school. Kaffer confronted Mullins who told him the man was not a minor at the time. (204)

According to a 2006 letter from a parishioner, the congregation was only told that Mullins took an unexplained leave of absence. (388)

3/1/93 – Sick leave

6/14/93 Kaffer writes to Mullins at St. Luke Institute. (206)