

Father Anthony Ross

He wrote apology letters to victims

Imesch knew about abuse, transferred priest

Victim told Auxiliary Bishop Kaffer he wouldn't sue if Ross removed

Instead, Imesch and Kaffer send the priest to California

In 2004, Imesch says that with a "good report," he would put abuser back in ministry

The career and personnel file of Father Anthony Ross is the perfect example of how Bishop Imesch easily kept an abusive priest in ministry.

Ross sexually abused at least one boy in 1982, while he was a priest in Joliet. Approximately one year later, Ross wrote the victim and his family apologizing for the abuse. When Imesch and Bishop Ryan learned about the letter, Ross remained in ministry, eventually being transferred to a parish in Lombard. In 2004 testimony, Imesch said that if a credibly accused priest had a "good report," Imesch would put him back in ministry.

In 1992, Bishop Roger Kaffer approached the victim. The victim told Kaffer he would not pursue a civil suit if Ross were removed from ministry. Ross was put on a leave of absence because, according to Bishop Imesch, there were fears that the victim would sue and go public.

By 1997, things had quieted down. Ross was quietly transferred to the Diocese of Santa Rosa, California. By 2002, Kaffer told Ross' victim that the cleric was still in ministry. At the same time, the Santa Rosa Diocese learned about the allegations and suspended Ross.

In 2005, the Vatican decided to allow Ross to remain a priest, but he was suspended from all ministry. His last known address is in Santa Rosa, California.

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS – ANTHONY ROSS

11/11/72 – Ordained

11/11/72 – Associate pastor, St. John the Baptist

6/2/77 – Associate pastor, St. Raymond Cathedral

6/19/80 – Associate pastor, St. Peter, Itasca

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| 1981/82 | According to a 2006 complaint, Ross sexually abused a minor in approximately 1981 or 1982. The abuse consisted of intoxicating the minor, fondling his genitals and performing oral sex on him. (407) |
| 6/11/82 | Letter from House of Affirmation to Ross confirming his assessment for 8/22/1982. (205) |
| 12/16/82 | Letter from House of Affirmation to Ross. Ross will be joining HOA in residency on 12/29/1982. (210) |

12/27/82 – On leave

1/17/83 Letter from Imesch to Ross at HOA. (214)

8/25/83 Memo from Imesch to Bishop Ryan and Fr. Donnelly that Ross will be returning from HOA and would like to return to St. Peter's. (223)

10/5/83 Letter from Ross to victim's family apologizing for "the hurt and sorrow that [he] has caused." (229)

3/25/86 Memo from Imesch to Kaffer that Ross back at St. Peter's and wants to go to California. (249)

5/13/86 Memo from Imesch that he spoke to HOA about Ross moving to California. (252)

6/18/86 – Associate pastor, Sacred Heart, Lombard

8/4/86 Memo from Imesch that Ross will need to ask the personnel board to go to CA. (254)

9/17/86 Memo from Kaffer to Imesch that Ross met with the personnel board and they recommend that Ross visit HOA and the Bishop in Santa Rosa. (256)

3/24/88 Request from Ross for leave of absence to establish direction of his ministry. (267)

6/1/88 – On leave of absence, California

6/21/89 – Associate pastor, St. Isadore, Bloomingdale

1/9/90 – Temporary administrator, St. Isidore, Bloomingdale

6/20/90 – Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo, Bensenville

1992 According to a 2006 complaint, a victim was approached by Kaffer and asked whether he was contemplating litigation. The victim told Kaffer that he would forego litigation if Ross was removed from ministry. (410)

1/22/93 Letter from Imesch to Ross relieving him of his duties and asking that he spend some time each day in prayer and meditation. (321)

1/23/93 Letter from Ross to Imesch that he received his letter and is in the process of consulting with counsels as to what choices he can pursue. (322)

According to Imesch's testimony in 2004, Ross took a leave of absence because of rumors that a lawsuit was going to go public. (389)

2/21/93 – On leave of absence

8/4/97 – Incardinated into Diocese of Santa Rosa in California

- 4/30/02 Letter from Kaffer to victim that he did not know that Ross was in ministry as a priest. (355)
- 5/28/02 Memo from Imesch that he met with a former altar boy who said that Ross invited him to sit on a chair with him and the memory was foggy. (368)
- 3/2/04 Memo from Imesch to Kaffer regarding Santa Rosa initiating process for laicization. (379)
- 9/14/04 Testimony of Imesch that in late December 1982, Ross left the Diocese of Joliet because there was an allegation (386) and that the parents of the victim claim that Imesch assured them Ross would never be assigned to a parish or function as a priest (387). Imesch says that the practice was that if he got a good report, priests were placed back into service. (388)
- 9/28/04 Letter from canonical auditor asking why Ross was at HOA from 1982 to 1983 if victim did not make allegation until 1983. (384)
- 8/8/05 Letter from Bishop of Santa Rosa to Imesch that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has ordered that Ross remain an incardinated priest but be removed from ecclesiastical ministry. (397)