

Reverend Paul G. Puza

Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	1949
YEAR OF DEATH:	N/A
ORDINATION:	May 31, 1975

Employment/Assignment History

6/1975 – 6/1976	St. Bernard, Easton, PA
6/1975 – 6/1976	Lafayette college, Easton, PA
6/1976 – 6/1977	Northampton County Regional Director of Vocations
6/1976 – 6/1977	St. Anne, Bethlehem, PA
6/1977 – 6/1978	Central Catholic High School, Reading, PA
6/1977 – 6/1978	St. Joseph, Reading, PA
6/1978 – 6/1981	St. Casimir, Shenandoah, PA
6/1978 – 6/1981	Catholic Scouting, Schuylkill County, PA
6/1981 – 11/1981	St. Anthony, Easton, PA
11/1985 – 8/1983	St. Stanislaus Kostka, Minersville, PA
8/1983 – 6/1989	St. Anthony of Padua, Cumbola
8/1983 – 6/1989	Nativity B.V.M. High School, Pottsville, PA
6/1989 – 2/2002	St. Richard, Barnesville, PA
6/1989 – 3/2002	Marian High School, Tamaqua, PA
2002	Resigned and ordered to refrain from public ministry
6/2010	Dismissed from Priesthood

Summary

On September 9, 1991, a former seminarian from the Diocese met with Bishop Welsh and advised that he was molested three times, involving oral sex by Father Paul Puza when the seminarian was in the eighth grade. On September 13, 1991, a Chancery official met with Puza, who admitted to one sexual encounter, not three. Puza also maintained his victim was a senior in high school, not in eighth grade.

On September 19, 1991, a Chancery official spoke with Puza's therapist, who stated that Puza admitted to "*quite a bit of male and female involvement, but insisted that the seminarian was the only minor.*"

On February 12, 1995, an 18-year-old high school student reported sexual contact by Puza to Welsh. On February 4, 2002, Puza admitted to sexual misconduct with a minor. On February 7, 2002, Puza resigned as Pastor of St. Richard of Chichester. On February 8, 2002, Puza's resignation was accepted by Bishop Cullen effective immediately. Cullen also asked

Summary

Puza to meet with the Secretary for Clergy to discuss his needs. The Diocese and Cullen made sure the needs of Puza were met until his dismissal from the priesthood in 2010.