

Reverend Russell E. Motsay

Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	1946
YEAR OF DEATH:	N/A
ORDINATION:	May 13, 1972

Employment/Assignment History

5/1972 – 3/1973	Asst. Pastor, Most Precious Blood, Hazleton, PA
3/1973 – 9/1974	St. Aloysius, Wilkes-Barre, PA
9/1974 – 1/1975	St. Lawrence, Williamsport, PA
1/1975 – 9/1977	5Sacred Heart, Peckville, PA
9/1977 – 8/1978	Asst. Pastor, Our Lady of Grace, Hazleton, PA
8/1978 – 6/1982	Asst. Pastor, St. John the Evangelist, Wilkes-Barre, PA
6/1982 – 9/1985	Asst. Pastor, Holy Name of Jesus, Swoyersville, PA
9/1985 – 7/1989	Pastor, St. James, Pleasant Mount, PA,
7/1989 – 7/1996	Pastor, St. Juliana, Rock Lake, PA
7/1996 – 4/2012	Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Carbondale, PA
4/13/2012	Resigned
9/15/2015	Removed from priestly ministry

Summary

On March 16, 2012, the Diocese of Scranton received an e-mail communication from a sender only known as “Jeff” he wrote that he needed to speak with the “Bishop only” concerning sexual abuse by a clergy member. A reply was sent to “Jeff” wherein he was encouraged to contact law enforcement immediately regarding the allegation. After receiving no response, a copy of the e-mail correspondence was given to the Lackawanna County District Attorney’s Office. The victim was ultimately located and the case was turned over to the Wayne County District Attorney’s Office.

The Pennsylvania State Police interviewed the victim who reported that he was touched and fondled by Father Russell E. Motsay. He explained that he would stay overnight at the rectory and sleep in the same bed as Motsay. They would only be dressed in their underwear and Motsay would massage the victim, rubbing his inner thighs and fondling him. He reported that Motsay was sexually aroused during these incidents.

The Pennsylvania State Police subsequently identified four additional victims who experienced similar abuse. Because the statute of limitations had expired, however, no criminal action could be taken.

Summary

Motsay was interviewed and admitted to the allegations. On September 15, 2015, he was permanently removed from priestly ministry.