



Pennsylvania report says predatory priest was sent to Mass. treatment center



MATT ROURKE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro held hands with Judy Deaven, who says her son was a victim of sexual abuse by a priest as a boy, during a news conference at the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg on Tuesday.

By Danny McDonald

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A Pennsylvania grand jury [report](#) on child sex abuse in six Catholic dioceses in the state found that one priest was sent to a Central Massachusetts treatment facility on a leave of absence during the time church authorities received complaints of sexual abuse against him in the early 1980s.

The report, released Tuesday, stated that while Dennis Dellamalva served as a priest in the Greensburg Diocese, “numerous allegations of child sexual abuse were made against him.”

At least five victims said Dellamalva sexually abused them, according to the report.

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“From 1982 to 1983 - - at the time the Diocese received complaints of sexual abuse by Dellamalva - - he was given a leave of absence and sent to the Spencer Abbey treatment center in Massachusetts,” according to the report.

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Ray Delisle, a spokesman for the Worcester Diocese, said in an e-mail Tuesday afternoon that he had never heard of a “Spencer Abbey treatment center.”

Messages left with St. Joseph’s Abbey, a monastery of Trappist monks in Spencer known for making jellies, jams, and [beer](#), were not immediately returned Tuesday afternoon.

Tuesday’s report, which said there were more than 1,000 identifiable victims, is the broadest examination yet by a US government agency of child sexual abuse in the Catholic church. It

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Dellamalva would not be the first priest accused of sexual abuse to be sent to the small Massachusetts community located about 20 minutes west of Worcester. [James Porter](#), a Massachusetts priest who went to jail for molesting dozens of children, was ordered to seek retreat at St. Joseph's Abbey in 1967, as Fall River Bishop James L. Connolly told him he could no longer function as a priest in the diocese.

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According to the report, Dellamalva was transferred to a different parish after the parents of his first two victims personally confronted a bishop, William Connare, "with the allegation that Dellamalva had molested their sons."

"Further, in his deposition, when Connare was specifically asked if he informed the pastor of Holy Family of the reason Dellamalva was being transferred to his parish, Connare stated that he did not," read the report.

Connare said he did not believe he needed to inform the pastor because "Dellamalva had been to treatment and was reportedly dealing with his issues."

Dellamalva, who was ordained in 1975, last functioned as a priest in the Greensburg Diocese in 1984, before he resigned from the priesthood in 1986, according to the report. He died in 1994.

Dellamalva was among a handful of priests accused of sexual misconduct in Tuesday's report to have New England connections.

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In 2011, a man told New Hampshire's Diocese of Manchester that Charles Ginder, a priest who was ordained in 1940 and died in 1984, sexually abused him in 1980, according to the report. The man said that he was a teenager at an overnight retreat in New Boston, N.H., when a man, "possibly a priest attempted to assault him in his bed." The victim screamed and Ginder then entered the room and offered to drive the victim home.

During the car ride, according to the report, Ginder pulled over by a river and fondled the teen "on top of his clothes."

"The young man got out of the vehicle before it went any further and took a bus home," read the report.

J. Pascal Sabas, a priest who had stints working in Maine in the early 1960s, was accused of sexually abusing a 14-year-old boy starting in 1964, according to Tuesday's report. Sabas abused the boy "while they were alone" in a basement and then again after the victim served as an altar boy with the priest. Sabas, according to the report, worked at a parish in Yarmouth, Maine from Oct. 1960 to Oct. 1962. He then moved to a Portland, Maine parish, where he worked until May 1963, at which time he started working at a church in Minersville, Pa, according to the report. Sabas died in 1996.

Another priest, Donald Dorsey was sent to a hospice after he became "sexually involved with a high school girl." A Pennsylvania diocese had received two complaints about Dorsey's behavior in 1959, the report said.

A Pennsylvania bishop "received inquiries from the Diocese of New York and the Diocese of Burlington, Vermont about Dorsey," the report stated. The bishop "notified them that Dorsey was an incorrigible recidivist," according to the report. Dorsey died in 2007.

Donald Cramer, who was ordained in 2001, communicated online with an individual from Connecticut who was charged criminally for possessing child pornography. While Dorsey was not found to be in possession of child pornography, he mentioned in his online communications that he wanted to go to Mexico to "rent" boys, according to authorities. Cramer was removed from priesthood in 2014.

Richard Zula, who was among a group of priests to use "whips, violence and sadism in raping their victims," according to the report, was sent to [Institute of Living](#), a mental health center in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1987. Zula was allowed to resign from the priesthood in 1996.

Matt Rocheleau of Globe Staff contributed to this report. Material from The New York Times and previous Globe coverage was used in this report. Danny McDonald can be reached at daniel.mcdonald@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@Danny__McDonald](#).

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