

Reverend Joseph Mueller

Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	1936
YEAR OF DEATH:	2010
ORDINATION:	June 25, 1983

Employment/Assignment History

7/05/1983 – 7/14/1984	Parochial Vicar, St. Bernard, Mt. Lebanon, PA
7/15/1984 – 6/16/1986	Parochial Vicar, Holy Spirit, West Mifflin, PA
6/16/1986 – 1/22/1987	In Residence, Cardinal Wright Center
1/23/1987 – 2/1988	St. John's Hospital, Ministry
11/29/1988 – 2/24/2003	Administrative Leave
2/24/2003	Withdrew from Active Ministry

Summary

In April 1986, an allegation of sexual abuse against Father Joseph Mueller was made to Father Wilt, Pastor at St. Bernard. A young man advised that when he was approximately 13 to 14 years of age, Mueller attempted to remove or pull down his shorts on several occasions. This occurred when he stayed overnight with Mueller at the Holy Spirit rectory.

In December 1986, in a letter to the Diocese, St. Luke's stated that they stood by their recommendation that Mueller "*not work with children or adolescents.*" As of November, 1988, Mueller's faculties were withdrawn.

In a confidential memorandum to Bishop Wuerl, it was suggested that Mueller was "*unassignable.*" In a November 1988 letter to Mueller, he was presented with three options: 1) Enroll in an interim program at St. Luke's to assist with the vocational discernment process; 2) Withdraw from active ministry; or 3) Petition the Holy See for a dispensation from the obligations of priesthood.

In September 1987, the Diocese received a complaint about Mueller. Specifically, a mother advised that Mueller paid "*inappropriate attention*" to her 16-year-old son.