

## **The Case of Father Robert Moslener**

### **Known Assignments**

1976 – 1978	St. John the Baptist, Scottsdale
1978 – 1979	St. Agnes, North Huntingdon
1979 – 1985	St. Joseph, New Kensington
1985 – 1986	St. Pius X, Mt. Pleasant
1986 – 1986	St. Cajetan, Monesson
1986 – 1987	Saints Simon and Jude, Blairsville
10/1987	St. Luke Institute, Suitland, Maryland
1987 – 1988	Holy Cross, Iselin
1988 – 1992	Assumption Hall, Sisters of Charity Retirement Home, Greensburg
1992 – 1996	St. Patrick, Brady's Bend
1996 – 2002	St. Mary Church and Sacred Heart Church, Yatesboro
06/2002	The Anodos Center

Father Robert Moslener was ordained into the Diocese of Greensburg in May of 1976. He thereafter served in a variety of capacities within the Diocese through 2002, including as a school teacher in the 1980's. His tenure in the Diocese was marred by the sexual abuse of children nearly from its outset when, in 1979 and 1980, he acknowledged engaging in "inappropriate behavior" with a 15-year-old victim (Victim One) and was sent for an evaluation. While information regarding this incident in Moslener's Diocesan file was limited, it is clear that William Connare was notified of Moslener's contact with the 15-year-old boy but nevertheless permitted him to return to his ministry. According to internal Diocesan documents associated with this incident, the Diocese viewed Moslener's abuse of Victim One in the following manner: "incident with the 15-year-old boy may well have represented an unacceptable yet understandable waystation on his path to more adult sexual integration."

Numerous allegations of child sexual abuse were levied against Moslener six years later. Diocesan records indicated that, in 1986, several elementary to middle school aged children provided statements to the Diocese regarding what Moslener had been teaching in his religion class. The children advised that, among other things, Moslener asked them if they masturbated

and described how Mary had to “bite off the cord” and “lick” Jesus after he was born to clean him off. One letter made clear that Moslener was discussing the physical effects of masturbation with a child.

On May 26, 1986, Klinzing sent a confidential memorandum to Connare. In this memorandum, Klinzing recommended that Moslener be put “on ice” due to the complaints made by these children. In May 1986, Connare dispatched Moslener to a psychologist for the purpose of an evaluation.

FATHER Bob, is talking about sex in religion class. He said about you playing with yourself and women having sex with each other. Shannon asked a question and Father bob said well, I hope you are going to have sex with your own husband. And Father Bob asked Doug, what it feels like about playing with your self, and Father said it feels good doesn't it.

DG0001908

#### An Example of a Child's Statement

In April 1986, the North Huntingdon Township Police Department advised the Diocese that Moslener had been investigated for committing sexual acts against male juveniles and that they had "records on file to substantiate the charges." Diocesan records make reference to sexual contact with a 16-year-old boy (Victim Two) around this time. There are no records indicating Moslener was prosecuted for his conduct.



The Township of North Huntingdon  
**Police Dept.**

11279 Center Highway  
North Huntingdon, Pa. 15642



William J. Brkovich  
Director of Public Safety

(412) 863-8800

April 10, 1986

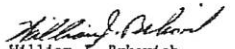
Attorney Vincent J. Morocco  
101 N. Main Street  
Greensburg, Pa. 15601

Dear Sir,

As per our conversation on April 9, 1986 this letter is to inform you that the Rev. Robert Moslener has been investigated by this department concerning homo-sexual acts involving Rev. Moslener and male juveniles.

We do have records on file to substantiate the charges.

Sincerely yours,

  
William J. Brkovich  
Director of Public Safety

DG0001918

### The Police Department's Letter

In 1987, Moslener was sent, over his objection, to St. Luke's Institute for an evaluation. Klinzing notified Connare via a confidential internal memorandum dated March 24, 1987, that Moslener "was involved in an inordinate way with a 16-year-old boy in the North Huntingdon area and there is a police record verifying this." Klinzing also noted that "Father Moslener was involved

with another individual at the St. Joseph Parish in New Kensington.” In this memorandum, Klinzing explicitly asked Connare whether Moslener was a risk to children.

Moslener was subsequently assigned as Chaplain of a retirement home from 1988 to 1992. From 1992 to 2002, however, he served as an active pastor in parishes in the Diocese. He was assigned as pastor of St. Patrick’s Church in Brady’s Bend, Clarion County, from 1992 to 1996 and at St. Mary Church and Sacred Heart Church in Yatesboro, Armstrong County, from 1996 to 2002.

An internal Diocesan document detailing the timeline of Moslener’s career indicated that, in 1999, another victim (Victim Four) contacted the Diocese and disclosed sexual abuse perpetrated by Moslener. The next entry or event appearing in Moslener’s file was his removal from the priesthood in 2002. Thus, despite Victim Four’s complaint and the numerous complaints of child sexual abuse levied against Moslener over the years, he was permitted to remain in active ministry.

In March 2002, two months after the January 2002 publication of a *Boston Globe* article detailing accounts of clergy sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Boston, Bosco placed Moslener on administrative leave. On August 1, 2002, Bosco resigned as Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg.

In 2003, yet another victim came forward with an allegation of sexual abuse by Moslener (Victim Five). Finally, in 2004, newly-installed [REDACTED] requested that the Vatican dismiss Moslener from the clerical state.

In 2013, the Diocese received an email from an individual (Victim Six) reporting that he and his siblings had been sexually abused by Moslener when they were children. Victim Six became concerned when he saw Moslener featured in various photos on the St. Joseph’s parish

website, despite his dismissal from the Church approximately a decade earlier. Victim Six referenced the “irreversible damage” Moslener caused and noted, “His name doesn’t appear on any sex offender registry. His victims continue to struggle to this day.”

See Case VI

The Bishop's Delegate received the following e-mail which was forwarded from [REDACTED] by Father John Chesney pastor of St. Joseph in New Kensington on April 3, 2013:

I am contacting you concerning some offensive photos discovered on your parish website. My siblings and I grew up in the 70's attending St. Joseph's School. We all received the sacraments of reconciliation, communion, confirmation and marriage at St. Joseph's Parish. My brothers were regular altar servers for many years. Our parents were extremely active within the community and made very generous financial as well as social contributions to the school/parish.

During our years at St. Joseph's, a former "priest", Robert Moslener, befriended our family. He embedded himself deeply into our lives often attending family gatherings and events. He portrayed himself as not only a religious man but a teacher, mentor, and friend to especially the youth of the parish. As a young child, I had a strong uneasiness about Mr. Moslener made stronger by the fact that he most often only liked to associate with male youth and seemed disinterested in female youth. Unfortunately, my age prevented me from fully understanding the harm he was inflicting upon our family. Due to the access of social media, technological advances, and decades of strong suspicion, I can now after 35 years piece together and attest to the irreversible damage Mr. Moslener has caused.

My siblings and I suffered horrible abuses at the hands of not only Mr. Moslener but Sister Victor and Sister Marie Corday both now deceased. My siblings and I all suffered physical and mental assaults at the hands of these three monsters. For some reason, I was stronger or perhaps more intuitive for my age and therefore somewhat spared from the more horrible assaults. I made it my childhood "mission" to explore why I just simply did not like Mr. Moslener. I watched his every move and am positive to this day he knew I was keeping a close eye on him at school, church, and in our family home.

At that time, Father Higgins was also a priest in the parish. It is unclear if he knew. I plan to ask him what he knew. I hope nothing but am realistic in that the truth probably won't be told to anyone. We know that Mr. Moslener was "moved" from parish to parish prior to his "unemployment" as a priest. It leaves me to question just how many children the Catholic faith is willing to use as human sacrifice. Mr. Moslener now resides in Pittsburgh enjoying his golden years unscathed. His name doesn't appear on any sex offender registry. His victims continue to struggle to this day. I plan to check on his employment status to make sure he isn't having any private "lunches" with young boys. Needless to say, my beliefs about Catholicism are in question, my wedding day somewhat less special, and my childhood and that of my siblings a huge lie.

I will be checking back on the church website hoping not to see Mr. Moslener in any photos. Please pay particular attention to the photo including a young child. It disgusts me the most. I wonder who that little boy is and if he is okay. I would pray for him but sadly don't really know if a God exists.

The parish web site was immediately accessed by the Diocese and the offending pictures were immediately taken down. The site was made active again and there was no further contact with [REDACTED]

DG0001855

Connare and Bosco permitted Moslener to continue in ministry for 22 years after the initial complaint of child sexual abuse against him and the numerous reports of child sexual assault which followed. During that time, Moslener continued to prey on innocent children within the Diocese of Greensburg.