

Reverend Arthur R. Merrell

Biographical Information

YEAR OF BIRTH:	Unknown
YEAR OF DEATH:	N/A
ORDINATION:	1970

Employment/Assignment History

Not specified	Chaplain, Allegheny County Jail and Shuman Juvenile Detention Center
2/20/1998	Resigned

Summary

In September, 1997, the Diocese of Pittsburgh received a report that Father Arthur R. Merrell had inappropriately touched a boy under the age of 15. Merrell admitted to the inappropriate sexual act and withdrew from the priestly ministry in February, 1998. The Diocese did not forward the information to the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office.

A handwritten note in the file dated February 2, 1998, detailed a sexual relationship that Merrell had with "James," a mentally ill man. "James" stated that he and Merrell masturbated together and that Merrell stuck his finger up his [James'] rectum and they kissed on several occasions. Merrell admitted to these acts.

In a confidential memorandum dated July, 2014, Rita Flaherty of the Diocese recounted a meeting with Merrell wherein he minimized his inappropriate actions with minors and asked the Diocese for money. The Diocese granted Merrell's request for a "*charitable gift of money*" in the sum of \$5,000. In 2015, Merrell requested another sum of money from the Diocese.