

# **Father Frederick Lenczycki**

## **A bishop's fatal decisions: Imesch sent Fr. Lenczycki out of state in 1985 to avoid criminal charges in the abuse of 14 boys, then**

**Bishop didn't disclose Lenczycki's past to new assignments and personally covered-up firsthand knowledge of abuse**

## **Cleric molested at least 25 boys in three states, convicted in 2004**

The story of Father Frederick Lenczycki is the perfect example of how Bishop Imesch's criminal cover-up of sexual abuse allowed a predator cleric to destroy dozens of children across three states.

Fr. Lenczycki admitted to abusing boys as early as 1984, even providing the names of victims to church officials. Instead of calling the police, Bishop Imesch sent Lenczycki to Missouri and then to California to avoid criminal prosecution. In both states, Lenczycki quietly underwent treatment and worked in local parishes. All the while, he continued to sexually abuse children.

In addition, Imesch didn't disclose Lenczycki's past crimes to officials at his later assignments in Missouri, where he continued to abuse minors.

By 2002, Imesch could no longer keep a lid on the allegations against Lenczycki and was forced to bring him back to Illinois to face charges. In 2004, Lenczycki pled guilty to abusing 3 boys. When his sentence ended in 2006, the cleric was remanded back to prison as a sexually violent predator.

Lenczycki was released in 2009 and is a registered sex offender in Illinois. He currently lives in Berkeley, Illinois.

## **TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS – FREDERICK LENCZYCKI**

12/9/63 Letter from Rector of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary to Assistant Chancellor Kaffer that 'this seminary is too difficult for' Lenczycki. (25)

10/21/72 – Ordained

10/23/72 – Associate Pastor, Sts. Peter and Paul in Naperville, IL

5/29/75 Letter appointing Lenczycki as member of faculty at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. (225)

6/16/75 – Faculty, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Lockport, IL

1979 According to a 1995 letter to Imesch, Lenczycki sexually abused a minor at St. Charles Borromeo under the guise of psychological research. The abuse consisted

of several incidents of masturbation. The writer is saddened to discover that as of 1995, Lenczycki is still listed in ministry in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. (385)

According to a 2002 letter, Lenczycki sexually abused a minor at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary under the guise of counseling. (445)

According to a 2010 report, Lenczycki sexually abused a minor in seminary on one occasion.

6/2/80 Letter appointing Lenczycki as associate pastor of St. Issac Jogues. (235)

6/19/80 – Associate Pastor, St. Issac Jogues in Hinsdale, IL

1982 – 1986 According to a 1996 report, a mother contacted the Bishop because her son was one of those involved with Lenczycki at St. Issac Jogues and is having difficulties. (388, 389)

12/4/84 Redacted list of 13 names that Lenczycki told Kocher were boys that he had taken to his private living quarters.

12/18/84 Letter from House of Affirmation, International Therapeutic Center for Clergy and Religious, to Chancellor of Diocese of Joliet regarding an assessment of Lenczycki. (243)

12/18/84 Letter from House of Affirmation to Lenczycki regarding three-day psychological assessment to take place in Webster Groves, Missouri. (244)

12/84 - St. Mary's in Belleville, IL

1/1/85 – On leave/Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Columbus, MO

1/14/85 Handwritten letter from Lenczycki at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Columbia, Missouri, to Jim Murray stating that he is awaiting the House of Affirmation evaluation and is temporarily 'tak[ing] the place of a priest who has been hospitalized' in St. James, Missouri. (246)

**1/16/85 Handwritten letter from Lenczycki to Imesch about working temporarily while awaiting evaluation, stating that he hopes 'things have been pretty quiet at St. Issac's' and apologizing for the difficulty he has caused. (251)**

1/23/85 Letter from parishioner to Imesch expressing concern about the incidents. (254)

3/85 – Treatment, House of Affirmation in Montero, CA

- 3/27/85 Letter from Lenczycki to Imesch regarding treatment in California stating ‘I’ve told the group I’m in therapy with the main reason for my coming to House of Affirmation and I’ve already discovered I’m not the Lone Ranger.’ (259)
- 5/13/85 Letter from Lenczycki to Imesch that he and his therapist are beginning to get some understanding of why he sexually acted out (Bates 268) and that it was difficult to share the reason why he was at HOA with the entire community and afterwards ‘cried in the arms of one of the residents like a baby – just as I did in your arms’ (Bates 269) and that he is ‘still quite concerned about the emotional/psychological health of the kids’ and is ‘carrying around guilt for what [he] did or may have done to them.’ (270).**
- 5/21/85 Letter from Office of State’s Attorney to attorney re: St. Issac Jogues Investigation stating that ‘with specific knowledge that Father Fred has undergone treatment and that care is being used in his assignment, we can quietly close this investigation.’ (264)**
- 5/28/85 Letter from Imesch to Lenczycki that the parish ‘has pretty much settled down and [he] would not expect any type of action from there’ (273) and that ‘for my part you could return at any time, but I do think it would be better to spend some time away from the diocese.’ (273)
- 8/24/85 Letter from Lenczycki to Imesch stating that he learned the State’s Attorney closed the file and inviting Imesch to visit. (278)
- 9/3/85 Letter from Imesch to HOA Psychologist (276)
- 9/5/85 Letter from Imesch to Lenczycki reassuring him that he has no intention of dropping him and outlining a plan to have him return to the Diocese of Joliet. (281).**
- 10/14/85 Letter from Lenczycki to Imesch that he’s begun going to a parish every other weekend for Sunday Masses. (287)
- 12/6/85 Letter from Lenczycki to Imesch saying that a year ago was when he left St. Isaac for St. Mary’s in Belleville. (293)

1/86 – Our Lady of Pillar Church in Half Moon Bay, CA

- 1/24/86 Letter from Imesch to Archbishop of San Francisco requesting that Lenczycki be allowed to work in the Archdiocese. (297)
- 1/29/186 Letter from Archbishop of San Francisco to Imesch that he will speak to personnel board. (298)

3/86 – St. Peter Catholic Church in Pacifica, CA

- 3/10/86 Letter from Archbishop to Imesch that Lenczycki will be at St. Peter's Parish in Pacifica until June 1987. (300)
- 4/10/86 Letter from Lenczycki to Imesch that he is really glad to be back working in a parish again and has not had any problem, desire or inclination. (304)
- 7/15/86 Memo of Imesch that he met with Lenczycki on July 7 to discuss his future assignment. (314)
- 7/30/86 Memo from Kaffer to Imesch recommending that Lenczycki remain in San Francisco. (315)
- 8/27/86 Letter from Lenczycki to Imesch stating that he hoped by this time his life would be getting back to normal and asking about his legal standing at home. (316)
- 9/30/86 Letter from Imesch to Lenczycki re: continuing at St. Peter's Parish. (319)
- 10/23/86 Letter from Lenczycki to Imesch stating that he received a letter from the attorney advising him not to return. (321)
- 3/4/87 Letter from Lenczycki to Imesch thanking him for visiting. (328)
- 6/15/87 Letter from HOA to Imesch that HOA is closing and Lenczycki will continue to be seen in private practice. (342)
- 8/29/88 Letter from Lenczycki to Imesch stating his observations of Fr. Tony Ross who is also at HOA. (357)

8/91- Pastoral Center, Belleville, IL

1992 – DePaul Health Center in Bridgeton, MO

7/92 – Church of North America Martyrs Rectory in Florissant, MO

1/96 – St. Blaise Parish in Maryland Heights, MO

- 6/25/97 Draft statement of Diocese stating that immediate action was taken at the time the diocese first learned of complaints against Lenczycki. (422)
- 1/4/00 Letter from Imesch to Lenczycki at St. Blaise Parish in Missouri. (431)
- 4/23/02 Statement of Archdiocese of St. Louis Bishop Dolan regarding Lenczycki being recalled to Joliet due to abuse allegations. (449)

- 5/31/02 Letter from Imesch to Dolan stating that it was very disturbing to have the archdiocese wash its hands to protect itself. (458)
- 6/20/02 Lenczycki's records sent to DuPage County Attorney's Office. (480)
- 8/22/02 Letter to St. Peter's Church parishioners regarding Lenczycki allegations. (686)
- 8/28/02 Memo from Sr. Davies to Imesch that she spoke to Lenczycki re: allegations during his time in California. (1985-1991) (478)
- 11/14/02 DuPage County Press Release regarding a Grand Jury Indictment against Lenczycki for Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse. (522)
- 3/3/03 Letter from Imesch to Lenczycki regarding ongoing communication and compensation. (562)
- 1/04 Lenczycki pled guilty and convicted of criminal sexual conduct.
- 1/27/04 Letter from Imesch to Lenczycki consoling him and offering to visit. (668)