

MICHIGAN

Ex-Ann Arbor priest gets year in jail, probation for sexual assault

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A former Ann Arbor priest who pleaded guilty to criminal sexual conduct was sentenced Wednesday to a year in jail and five years of probation, state officials announced.

Timothy Crowley, 74, received the sentence from a Washtenaw County Circuit Court Judge, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said Thursday in a statement.

The judge also ordered Crowley to receive sex offender treatment and register as a sex offender, Nessel's office said.

"This sentence will never erase the pain Mr. Crowley inflicted on those who trusted him, but it serves as an example of our pursuit of justice related to clergy abuse and, hopefully, can provide some sense of relief to his many victims," the attorney general's statement said.

Crowley will serve his incarceration at the Washtenaw County Jail.

Once a priest at the St. Thomas Rectory in Ann Arbor, Crowley was arrested in 2019 in Arizona.

Investigators accused him of sexually assaulting an altar boy at St. Mary Parish in Jackson in the early 1980s and later at St. Anthony parish in Hillsdale and St. Thomas in Ann Arbor. The assaults began when the boy was 10.

In 1993, the Diocese of Lansing paid the boy a \$200,000 settlement. The youth signed a non-disclosure agreement as part of the settlement.

The state's case against Crowley was initially dismissed after a preliminary examination but was appealed.

He was originally charged by the state with four felony counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and four felony counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct for alleged crimes against one victim.

The Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, or SNAP, welcomed the sentence.

“We applaud the victims who provided testimony and help put away a predator,” Michael McDonnell, the interim executive director, said in a statement Thursday. “Our thanks to Attorney General Nessel for her efforts to hold those responsible for altering the lives of victims.”

Nessel said Crowley is the ninth clergyman convicted by her office's clergy abuse investigation team.

She said his sentencing completes the prosecutions of the five original priests charged with sexual assault arising from the team's investigation, which began in 2018.

Ultimately, 11 priests across the state were charged with crimes against 44 victims.

The attorney general's office secured 20 convictions against nine clergymen. Nessel said two priests who were charged await extradition from India.

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