

Rev. David Connell

Reviewing a recent grand jury report from Pennsylvania, the Archdiocese of San Antonio became aware of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor made against Rev. David Connell. According to this report he is alleged to have sexually abused a minor while he was serving as chairman of the Science Department of Nativity High School in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, where he was assigned from 1973 to 1976.

Rev. Connell came to San Antonio in August 1976 and joined the faculty of Antonian College Preparatory High School as a biology and theology teacher. He continued at Antonian College Preparatory High School in the roles as vice principal and then principal until September 1988. On January 1, 1989, Rev. Connell was assigned as temporary administrator of St. Thomas More Church in San Antonio, and he was named pastor there on June 1 of that year. He served in that role until his death on September 13, 1995.

Since we first published this notification, we have been made aware of allegations of abuse against Rev. Connell during his time at Antonian High School. I am grateful to these survivors who have come forward.

I share this information with you with the hope that if any members of our community have been affected by sexual abuse, they will feel encouraged to seek all needed pastoral support or counseling as part of their healing process. If we can be of assistance to you, or if you have questions or concerns in regard to Rev. Connell, please notify Mr. Steve Martinez, Director of the Office of Victim Assistance and Safe Environment at 210-734-7786 or 877-700-1888.

I pledge my commitment to continue to work toward making every Catholic Church, school and institution a safe harbor for all of our children. Please join me in prayer as we reach out to any and all who may be victims of sexual abuse.

*Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S.*