

# Father Gerald “Jerry” Funcheon

## Fact Sheet



### Former Palma Chaplain and Counselor

**Banished from diocese – Subject of numerous sex abuse and cover-up lawsuits – Removed from order**

**Dumped at Palma High School after victims reported abuse in Hawaii**

**At least two Palma HS victims have come forward**

Father Gerald “Jerry” Funcheon, a member of the Crosier order, was banished from the Diocese of Indianapolis due to allegations of child sexual abuse. At least nine of his victims have come forward, receiving settlements for abuse that occurred as far back as the 1970s.

Originally ordained in Minnesota, lawsuits allege that Funcheon abused kids for numerous years until he disappeared from the Midwest and official church directories. During the period of his disappearance, church and order officials “dumped” Funcheon in Hawaii to escape allegations of abuse. When victims came forward to allege that Funcheon abused them at Damien High School in Honolulu, Funcheon was again “dumped” at Palma High School where the Salinas community had no knowledge of his past.

Victims from Funcheon’s time in Hawaii and at Palma High School have come forward as a part of the Irish Christian Brothers’ Bankruptcy.

Funcheon eventually left the order and the priesthood, and his whereabouts are unknown. In 2009, three of Funcheon’s victims, along with six other victims of Crosier priests, shared a \$1.7 million settlement from the order.

Funcheon worked at Palma High School as the school chaplain and spiritual counselor from 1984 to 1985. Educated as a therapist, he used his role as “counselor” to spend long periods of time alone with students.

**Sources:** Damien High School yearbooks (available at Honolulu Public Library)

Palma High School Yearbooks

Bishop---Accountability.org

Pioneer Press: [http://www.twincities.com/ci\\_11640729](http://www.twincities.com/ci_11640729), [http://www.twincities.com/ci\\_11651784?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.twincities.com/ci_11651784?nclick_check=1)

Indianapolis Star: [http://www.bishop---accountability.org/news/1997\\_02\\_16\\_IS\\_SinsOf.htm](http://www.bishop---accountability.org/news/1997_02_16_IS_SinsOf.htm)

Chicago Tribune: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi---ap---in---churchabusedioces,0,5757096.story>