

Assignment Record - Rev. Eugene M. O'Sullivan

Summary of Case: There are multiple accusations of sexual abuse of altar boys against O'Sullivan throughout his career, dating to at least 1984. He was also accused of having sexually abused two nephews over many years. He was transferred within the Boston archdiocese each time accusations surfaced. He was convicted in 1984 of raping a boy in Massachusetts, and transferred in 1985 by Cardinal Law to the diocese of Metuchen, NJ. O'Sullivan was brought back to Massachusetts in 1992, where he was allowed to continue to wear a Roman collar. He was defrocked in 2005.

Born: 1932
 Ordained: 1960
 Defrocked: 2005

Labels: 2005

| Start | Stop | Assignment | Town/Accusations | State | Position | Notes |
|----------|----------|---|--|-------|---------------|---|
| 7/12/60 | 9/18/62 | St. John Vianney | Reverse | MA | 22 | |
| 8/14/62 | 7/15/63 | Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted | • Church authorities knew O'Sullivan was molesting altar boys at this parish. (Boston Globe, 6/20/2024) A 1984 memo in Sullivan's personnel file acknowledges accusations against him (Boston Herald June 5, 2002). | MA | 2/4 | |
| 7/16/63 | 2/22/65 | St. Ann's | Marshfield A 1984 letter in O'Sullivan's personnel file reveals a complaint from the parent of a St. Ann's altar boy that O'Sullivan had molested her son and other altar boys in the parish. She also wrote that "Fr. Finn refused to do anything." (Boston Globe June 5, 2002) | MA | 2/2 | Finn was the St. Ann's pastor. He had told the boy's parents that he would notify the archdiocese about their concerns, but they later found out he had not done so. Catholic Transfers O'Sullivan subsequent to parents' letter. (Boston Herald June 5, 2002) |
| 2/23/65 | 6/18/70 | Our Lady of the Assumption | Boston (East Boston) • Within months of O'Sullivan's transfer to this parish, there were "reports of incidents with a couple of altar boys." This is per a 1984 letter in O'Sullivan's personnel file by then Rev. Robert J. Banks. (Boston Globe June 5, 2002) | MA | 2/3, 2/2, 3/3 | Parish had a school with 148-109 boys and 162-121 girls. |
| 6/19/70 | 10/31/84 | St. Agnes | Arlington • O'Sullivan was convicted in 1984 of raping a St. Agnes altar boy. The abuse started when the boy was 13, and continued for two years. (Boston Globe July 16, 1993) • O'Sullivan's nephew, Sean, disclosed in a 1993 news report that O'Sullivan molested him when he was 13 and that he had also abused his brother (who died in 1989) before that, when the brother was as young as six years old. (Boston Globe July 29, 1993) The nephews were Ivan Quinley , MA (The Patriot Ledger, October 20, 2008) | MA | 4/4, 3/3, 3/4 | O'Sullivan was sentenced to five years probation, with the stipulation that he be assigned "where he has no contact with young people". • O'Sullivan was sentenced to five years probation, with the stipulation that he be assigned "where he has no contact with young people". (Boston Globe July 16, 1993) |
| 11/01/84 | 9/26/85 | Absent on Sick Leave | | | | O'Sullivan was sent to Canada for treatment. (Post-Crescent Green Bay August 23, 2003) |
| 9/27/85 | 1987 | St. Joseph's | North Plainfield | NJ | 3/5 | Parish had a school with 231 students. Cardinal Law transferred O'Sullivan to the Menucha diocese, where he served at four parishes over the next several years. Parsons of three of the parishes were of O'Sullivan's history of molesting children. (Boston Globe June 5, 2002) The Boston archdiocese's assignment history for O'Sullivan says his name #27385-658002 was "New Parish Ministry, Missionaries-Other Diocese." O'Sullivan was not restricted in terms of contact with children , while in New Jersey. He involved in parish religious education and a youth group. (Boston Globe July 16, 1993) |
| 1987 | 1989 | Our Lady Outside the Diocese | | NJ | | Neither the 1988 nor the 1989 Directories indicate in the indexes where O'Sullivan was on duty. |
| 1990 | 1991 | Mary, Mother of God | Hillboro | NJ | 2/2 | |
| 1991 | 1992 | St. Bartholomew | East Brunswick | NJ | 2/4 | Parish had a school with 390 students. A phone number for O'Sullivan indexed in the 1991 Directory is for the rectory of Our Lady of Assumption in Chelsea, MA, per a 2010 google search. (Boston Herald, however, does not list Sullivan there in the Boston archdiocesan pages.) |
| 1992 | 1993 | | | MA | | In a 1993 memo, in an effort to defend his 1985 decision to transfer O'Sullivan to Jersey, Cardinal Law proposed that help in a number of children by O'Sullivan. However, Bishop Alfred C. Hughes wrote in the memo's margin, "Certain? There were previous reports." (Boston Globe June 5, 2002) |
| 1993 | 1997 | Carmy Hospital | Boston (Dorchester) | MA | | O'Sullivan was indexed twice in the 1994-1996 Directories , once as On Duty Outside, and once as Awaiting Assignment. |
| 1997 | 2005 | Retired; Senior Priests | | MA | | O'Sullivan was defrocked in 2005 . (The Patriot Ledger, October 20, 2008) |

Sources: Official Catholic Directory (New York: P.J. Kennedy and Sons, 1960-2006); [O'Sullivan Assignment History](#); Archdiocese of Boston

Priests in a Parish: We use the following convention to show a priest's place among the clergy of a parish: 1/2 means that he is the first priest listed in the *Official Catholic Directory* (usually the pastor) and that there is a total of two priests at the parish. The shorthand 3/4 means that the priest is listed third on a four-priest roster. See our [sample page from the Directory](#).

Note: The *Official Catholic Directory* aims to report the whereabouts of Catholic priests in the United States on January 1 of the *Directory's* publication year. Our working assumption is that a priest listed in the *Directory* for a given year was at the same assignment for part of the previous year as well. However, Kennedy and Sons will sometimes accept updates well into the year of publication. Diocesan clergy records are rarely available to correct this information. The *Directory* is also sometimes misleading or wrong. We have tried to create an accurate assignment record, given the source materials and their limitations. Assignment records are a work in progress and we are always improving the records that we post. Please [email us](#) with new information and corrections.

This assignment record collates O'Sullivan's career history as it is represented in the *Official Catholic Directory* with allegations as reported in the media. We make no representation regarding the truth of the allegations we report, and we remind our readers that the U.S. legal system presumes that a person accused of or charged with a crime is innocent until proven guilty. Similarly, individuals who may be defendants in civil actions are presumed not to be liable for such claims unless a plaintiff proves otherwise. Admission of guilt or liability are not typically a part of civil or private settlements. For more information, see our [privacy policy](#).

This assignment record was last updated on June 16, 2010.