

Assignment Record– Bro. Damien (Patrick) Chong, O.Carm.

Summary of Case: Brother Damien (Patrick) Chong entered the Carmelite Order's Brothers' formation program in 1956 in Akron OH. He made his first vows in 1958, and his solemn vows in 1961. His first three years as a religious brother were spent assisting in the Order's House of Theology in Washington DC. From there he moved to southern CA, where he taught in Carmelite high schools until around 1991. He was then transferred to Chicago IL, where he served as a parish associate pastor and prior. In 1997 Chong settled in Peabody MA, living at the Order's priory and working, primarily, at their "Chapel-in-the-Mall." In 2008 Chong's name was quietly added to the Los Angeles diocese's list of "names of clergy from a follow up review of Archdiocesan files, and names of clergy involved in Clergy I litigation which were not previously posted." Chong died October 31, 2014. His name was included on Attorney Garabedian's list in March 2016 of accused clerics named in civil claims resulting in settlements or arbitration awards. A former Crespi High School in Encino CA student received a settlement in March 2015, claiming Chong sexually abused him repeatedly 1984-86.

Born: June 5, 1938

Simple Profession: September 8, 1958

Solemn Profession: September 8, 1961

Died: October 31, 2014

Start	Stop	Assignment	Town/ Accusations	State	Position	Notes
1956	1958	Carmelite Brothers' Formation Program	Akron	OH		
Cleveland bishop was Edward Francis Hoban (1945- 1966).						

1958	1961	Whitefriars Hall	Washington	DC	Assistant for the House of Theology Community	This was a house of theology for the Carmelite Order.
Washington DC archbishop was Patrick Aloysius O'Boyle (1947-1973).						
1961	1963					
1963	1967	Crespi Carmelite High School	Encino	CA	Teacher	
Los Angeles archbishop was James Francis McIntyre (1948-1970).						
1967	1974	Mt. Carmel High School	Los Angeles	CA	Teacher	
McIntyre was succeeded by Timothy Finbar Manning (1970-1985).						

1974	1976					Chong is <u>not listed</u> in the <i>Directory</i> for these years. He was likely at <u>Mt. Carmel or Crespi</u> .
1976	1984					Chong is <u>not listed</u> in the <i>Directory</i> for these years. He was likely at <u>Crespi</u> .
1984	1989	Crespi Carmelite High School	Encino • Chong was accused in a lawsuit settled in March 2015 of sexually abusing a Crespi High student 1984-86. His accuser said Chong would abuse him in his living quarters after inviting the <u>boy</u> to sleep there after football practice.	CA		
1989	1991					Chong is not listed in the 1990 <i>Directory</i> .

Roger Michael Mahony replaced Manning (1985-2011).

1991	1997	St. Gelasius	Chicago	IL	Associate Pastor and Prior	
<p>Chicago archbishop was Joseph Louis Bernardin (1982-1996), followed by Francis Eugene George, O.M.I. (1997-2014).</p>						
1997	2014	St. Therese Carmelite Chapel-in-the-Mall	Peabody	MA	Sacristan (North Shore Mall)	
<p>Boston archbishop was Bernard Francis Law (1984-2002), followed by Sean Patrick O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap. (2003-).</p>						
	2014	Discalced Carmelite Monastery	Danvers	MA		

1999	2014	Our Lady of the Scapular Carmelite Priory	Peabody	MA		Chong died October 31, 2014.
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Sources: *Official Catholic Directory* (New York: P.J. Kenedy and Sons)

- [Carmelite Staff, St. Therese Carmelite, Chapel-in-the-Mall](#), carmelite.com, downloaded June 27, 2013
- [Assignment Histories related to the L.A. archdiocese's Final Addendum to the Report to the People of God](#), BishopAccountability.org, February 2013
- [Brother Damien P. Chong, O.Carm, 76, Obituary](#), The Salem News, November 1, 2014
- [Ex-Crespi Carmelite student gets 5-figure settlement for alleged sexual abuse](#), By Brenda Gazzar, Los Angeles Daily News, March 28, 2016

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, Kenedy 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 Chong'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 allegation 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. Admissions of guilt or liability are not typically a part of civil or private settlements. For more information, see our [posting policy](#).