

## Msgr. Patrick J. O'Shea

**Summary of Case:** O'Shea was a prominent figure in the San Francisco archdiocese. In January 1995 he was criminally charged for the sexual abuse of at least nine boys in the 1960s and 1970s, some as young as age nine. More men came forward in subsequent years. O'Shea was the subject of multiple lawsuits and settlements. The criminal charges were dropped and refiled, then dropped again, due to statutes of limitation. Much of the abuse is reported to have taken place at O'Shea's trailer at Lake Berryessa, where he would take the boys waterskiing, then ply them with alcohol. He was laicized in 1994. In 2004 O'Shea was convicted of grand theft and tax fraud and put on probation.

**Ordained:** 1958

**Laicized:** 1994



Start	Stop	Assignment	Town/Accusations	State	Position	Notes
1958	1969	<b>Mission Dolores Basilica</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	CA	<a href="#">4/5</a> , 3/4, 2/5, 2/4	Parish had a school with 377-342 boys.
San Francisco archbishop was John Joseph Mitty (1935-1961), followed by Joseph Thomas			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Accused</u> in a 1994 lawsuit of fondling a boy on a camping trip in 1969. (San Francisco Chronicle January 24, 1995)</li> <li>• A man reported in 2002 that he had been sexually abused by O'Shea beginning</li> </ul>			

McGucken (1962- 1977)			in 1968, when he was an 11-year-old <a href="#">altar boy</a> and student at Mission Dolores. (San Francisco Chronicle March 29, 2003)			
1969	1970	<b>On duty outside the diocese.</b>				Although the 1970 <i>Directory</i> indicates he was in the Stockton diocese, he is not listed there in the Stockton diocesan pages.
1970  McGucken was replaced as archbishop by John Raphael Quinn (1977-1995)	1978	<b>Most Holy Redeemer</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>  • Two men came forward in 2003 to report that O'Shea molested them at Lake Berryessa in the 1970s, when they were 11-13 years old. (San Francisco Chronicle March 29, 2003)	CA	3/3, 4/4  In residence.	Parish had a school with 274-192 students. O'Shea is referred to as "Monsignor" beginning with the 1972 <i>Directory</i> .
1970	1994	<b>Holy Childhood Pontifical Association</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	CA	Director	CA
1972	1982	<b>Assistant Director for Vocations</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>			
1971	1982	<b>San Francisco Society for the Propagation of the Faith</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	CA	Director	
1985	1994					
1989	1992	<b>Serra Club of West San Francisco Area (Golden Gate)</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	CA		
1978	1990	<b>Holy Name of Jesus</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	CA	1/4, 1/5, 1/6	Parish has a school with 640-

						493 students.
1990	1994	<b>St. Cecilia</b>	<b>San Francisco</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placed on administrative leave in March 1994 due to <a href="#">allegations</a> of sexual abuse of boys. (San Francisco Chronicle May 24, 1994) hen abused.</li> </ul>	CA	1/6, 1/5	Parish had a school with 590-567 students.
1994	1995					O'Shea is not indexed in the 1995 <i>Directory</i> .
1995	2003	<b>Absent on Leave</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Arrested</a> in January 1995 for having molested nine boys between January 1964 and August 1980. The abuse is said to have taken place in San Francisco, Napa, Placer and Riverside counties, and mostly at O'Shea's trailer at Lake Berryessa. One man alleged he was abused as a boy on a trip to Rome with O'Shea, where the two met the pope. O'Shea would typically ply the boys with alcohol. Most victims were altar boys, some as young as nine years old when abused.</li> </ul>			<p>The 2003 <i>Directory</i> is the last in which O'Shea's name appears.</p> <p>O'Shea was sentenced to four years in jail in Feb. 2004 for <a href="#">grand theft and tax fraud</a> charges. He was given four years credit for years already served in jail while he had been awaiting trial on molestation charges. Those charges were ultimately dropped due to statutes of limation. He was</p>
		William Joseph Levada replaced Quinn as archbishop (1995-2005)				

(San Francisco Chronicle January 24, 1995) O'Shea was subsequently [defrocked](#). The charges were dismissed in July 1995 and refiled in 1998 but the case couldn't go to trial until a change in CA in 1999 extended the statute of limitations.

(San Francisco Chronicle June 16, 2000) The case was again [dismissed](#) in 2002, due to a judge's ruling that prosecutors waited too long to file. (San Francisco Chronicle March 15, 2002)

- [Charged](#) in 1996 with embezzling over \$260,000 from parishioners and from the archdiocese. (San Francisco Chronicle June 6, 1996)

- [Two more](#) men came forward in 2003 with allegations that they had been sexually abused by O'Shea in

released and put on parole. (San Francisco Chronicle February 3, 2004)

			the 1970s, when they were ages 11-13. Another man had come forward in 2002. (San Francisco Chronicle March 29, 2003)		
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**Source:** *Official Catholic Directory* (New York: Kenedy & Sons, 1959-2003).

**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 & 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.

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