

## Rev. Milton T. Walsh

**Summary of Case:** Walsh molested a 12- to 13-year-old California boy in 1984, some of the abuse occurring on the boy's 13th birthday. The boy told his parents the day after his birthday, and they reported the abuse to San Francisco archbishop Quinn. Quinn convinced the parents not to go to police, reassuring them that Walsh would get help and not reoffend. When William Levada became San Francisco archbishop in 1995, he learned of the 1984 abuse by Walsh, and Walsh acknowledged it. Levada kept Walsh in ministry until August 2002, after the U.S. Bishops' drafted a "zero tolerance" policy. Walsh was arrested in October 2002 on charges related to the 1984 molestations. Charges were dropped in July 2003 when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a California law that would have allowed for prosecution.

**Ordained:** 1978

Start	Stop	Parish/Assignment	Town/Accusations	State/Country	Position	Notes
1978  San Francisco archbishop was John Raphael Quinn (1977-1995)	1980	<b>Our Lady of Loretto</b>	Novato	CA	<a href="#">2/3</a>	Our Lady of Novato had a school with 322-324 students.
1980	1982	<b>St. Thomas the Apostle</b>	San Francisco	CA	4/4	St. Thomas the Apostle had a school with 250 students.
1982	1985	<b>Special Assignment</b>	Rome  • Walsh was arrested in Oct. 2002 and charged with having <a href="#">molested a boy in 1984, in the months before and on his</a>	Italy		According to the boy's parents, the boy told them about the molestations the day after his birthday, and

13th birthday in Novato, CA. He was said to have fondled the boy while the two swam together at a country club pool, and on the boy's 13th birthday he was said to have cornered the boy in the club's shower and rubbed his genitals. The priest was a family friend from his time at Our Lady of Loretto in Novato. He spent the night at the family's home after the boy's birthday party that night, and reportedly fondled the boy again during the night. The boy had been an altar server, dreamed of becoming a priest, and thought of Walsh as his spiritual mentor.

they told archbishop Quinn. Quinn convinced the parents not to go to the police and reassured them that Walsh would get help and not reoffend.

Walsh was on a break from doctoral studies in Rome at Our Lady of Loretto.

1985

1989

**St. Patrick Seminary**

**Menlo Park**

CA

faculty in residence

Now referred to as S.T.D. (Doctor of Sacred Theology)

1989

1997

**Cathedral of St. Mary**

**San Francisco**

CA

1/4, 1/3

Levada admitted under oath that

<p>Quinn was succeeded by William Joseph Levada (1995-2005)</p>						<p>he first learned of Walsh's 1984 abuse when he arrived in San Francisco in 1995. The victim's aunt wrote Levada a letter begging him "not to let this man fall through the cracks". Walsh admitted to fondling the boy. <a href="#">Levada allowed Walsh to stay in ministry.</a></p>
<p>1996</p>	<p>2002</p>	<p><b>Knights of Malta</b></p>	<p><b>San Francisco</b></p>	<p>CA</p>		
<p>1997</p>	<p>2002</p>	<p><b>St. Patrick Seminary</b></p>	<p><b>Menlo Park</b></p>	<p>CA</p>	<p>Dean of Students 1997-2001, Academic Vice President and Provost 2001-2002</p>	
<p>2002</p>	<p>2003</p>					<p>Walsh is not indexed in the 2003 <i>Directory</i>.</p> <p>Walsh was <a href="#">removed from active ministry in Aug. 2002</a> due to allegations that he had molested a 12- to 13-year-old boy in 1984. He was arrested on charges of</p>

					<p>child sexual abuse in Oct. of that year, after the archdiocese turned his name and allegations over to prosecutors. <a href="#">Walsh admitted to the abuse</a> in a phone call placed to him by the victim in 2002. The call was secretly taped by Novato police. Walsh apologized to his victim.</p> <p>The <a href="#">charges against Walsh were dropped</a> in July 2003, when a CA law that would have extended the statutes of limitation on sex crimes against children was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.</p>
<p>2003</p> <p>George Hugh Niederauer replaced</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p><b>Absent on Leave</b></p>		<p>CA</p>	<p><b>Levada</b> went on to lead the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which oversees</p>

Levada (2005-)					cases of child sexual abuse. Walsh's victim stated in 2010 that he was outraged by Levada's role and that <a href="#">the abuse by Walsh "really ruined me."</a>
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**Source:** Official Catholic Directory (New York: P.J. Kenedy and Sons, 1979-2011)

- [Priest Charged with Abuse of Boy, 13](#), By Peter Fimrite, San Francisco Chronicle, October 5, 2002
- [Judge Finds Enough Evidence to Try Priest for Abuse](#), By Con Garretson, Marin Independent Journal (Marin, CA), June 10, 2003
- [Charges Dropped in Novato Molest Case](#), By Con Garretson, Marin Independent Journal, July 2, 2003
- [Levada Takes Heat over Abuse Inquiry](#), By Don Lattin, San Francisco Chronicle, November 12, 2004
- [The Man Who Keeps the Secrets](#), By Jason Berry, San Francisco California [San Francisco CA], Downloaded September 22, 2005
- [Vatican Official Left Abusive Priest in Pastor Job](#), By Gillian Flaccus, The Associated Press, April 28, 2010
- [Vatican Abuse Investigator 'failed to Report Californian Priest'](#), By Richard Owen, The Times, April 30, 2010
- [Vatican Official Left Abusive Priest in Pastor Job](#), By Gillian Flaccus, The Associated Press, April 28, 2010

**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 Walsh'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](#).

This assignment record was last updated on December 21, 2011.