Assignment Record – Rev. William J. "Bill" Spine, s.j.

Summary of Case: A Chicago Province Jesuit ordained in 1973, Fr. Bill Spine worked in Tacna Peru, Brooklyn NY, Moline IL, Chicago IL, and Lexington KY. He was a teacher, parish assistant and pastor, and associate director of a diocesan hispanic ministry office. Spine was removed from active ministry in February 2006, several months after the Jesuits received what they called a credible allegation that the priest sexually abused a teenage boy while assigned in Peru in the mid-1970s. The boy was Spine's student. Spine lived and worked at a Jesuit Community in Rome from 2006 until 2012, when he was sent to a Jesuit Health Care community. He died at a hospice in St. Louis MO in June 2026.

Ordained: 1973

Start	Stop	Parish/Assignment	Town/Accusations	State/ Country	Position	Notes
1973 Chicago archbishop was John Patrick Cody (1965-1982).	1974	**Jesuit School of Theology of Loyola University**	**Chicago**	IL		
1974 Tacna y Moquegua bishop was Oscar Rolando Cantuarias Pastor (1973-1981).	1979	**Colegio Cristo Rey**	**Tacna** • Spine was credibly accused in the 2005 of sexually abusing a teenage boy in Peru in the mid-1970s. The boy was Spine's student.	Peru	teacher	Spine also worked 1968-1970 in Tacna, while in "regency" (seminary), prior to ordination,
1979 New York archbishop was Terence James Cooke (1968-1983).	1982	**Our Lady of Mercy**	**Bronx**	NY		
1982 Brooklyn bishop was Francis John Mugavero (1968-1990).	1983	**St. Ignatius**	**Brooklyn**		3/5, 2/4	
1983 Peoria bishop was Edwin William O'Rourke (1971-1990).	1986	**St. Mary's**	**Moline**	IL	3/4, 2/2	St. Mary's had a school with 187 students.
1986 Chicago archbishop was Joseph Louis Bernardin (1982-1996).	1989	**Holy Family**	**Chicago**	IL	1/6, 1/5, 1/3	Holy Family had a school with 232-268 students.
1989	1990	**Clark St. Jesuit Residence**	**Chicago**	IL		
1990 Oakland bishop was John Stephen Cummins (1977-2003).	1991	**Jesuit School of Theology**	**Berkeley**	CA		
1991 Bernardin was succeeded by Francis Eugene George, o.m.i. (1997-).	2001	**Jesuit Community at Loyola University of Chicago**	**Chicago**	IL	Spine was involved with Loyola University's Hispanic House.	
2001 Lexington bishop was James Kendrick Williams (1988-2002), followed by Ronald William Gainer (2002-2014).	2004	**St. Paul's**	**Lexington**	KY	2/3	
2001	2006	**Hispanic Ministry**	**Lexington**	KY	associate director	Spine was removed from active ministry in February 2006 due to a credible allegation that he sexually abused a teenage boy in Peru in the mid-1970s. The Jesuits learned of the allegation several months previously but kept Spine in ministry during their investigation.
2006	2012	**Colegio S. Roberto Bellarmine Jesuit Community**	**Rome**	Italy		
2012	2026					Not indexed beyond the 2010 *Directory*. Spine died June 27, 2026 at Mercy Hospice — St. Louis de Greeff Hospice House in MO.

Sources: Official Catholic Directory (New York: P.J. Kenedy and Sons, 1974-2010)

• Joliet Priest Accused of Abuse Put on Leave, By Cathleen Falsani, Chicago Sun-Times, February 8, 2006
• Lexington Priest Is Removed from Ministry, Allegations of Sexual Misconduct Stem from Work in Peru Years Ago, By Frank E. Lockwood, Herald-Leader , February 8, 2006
• Lexington Priest Removed After Allegations of Misconduct, WKYT, February 8, 2006
• New Priest Abuse Allegations Emerge, Joliet Priest Removed from Parish, By Ben Bradley, WLS-TV/ABC7 (Chicago), February 7, 2006
• Jesuits Midwest Obituary June 27, 2026

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 Spine'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 November 10, 2026.