

2014 update

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The Geoghan case

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Contact Spotlight

If you have information on child abuse by priests, call **(617) 929-3208**

Or leave a confidential message at this number **(617) 929-7483**

The Spotlight e-mail address is [spotlight@globe.com](mailto:spotlight@globe.com).



## Geoghan's troubled history

**July 21, 1954** The seminary rector at Cardinal O'Connell Seminary writes a letter saying that John J. Geoghan has a "very pronounced immaturity."

**1962** Geoghan ordained.

### **FEB. 13, 1962 – SEPT. 27, 1966** **Blessed Sacrament, Saugus**

**1962-1966** The Rev. Anthony Benzovich reportedly tells church officials that Geoghan brings boys into his bedroom. Benzovich later denies it. In 1995, Geoghan admits molesting four boys over 2 1/2 years while in Saugus.

### **SEPT. 27, 1966 – APRIL 20, 1967** **St. Bernard's, Concord**

No reason given for abbreviated stay in church records.

### **APRIL 20, 1967 – JUNE 4, 1974** **St. Paul's, Hingham**

**About 1968** Hingham father complains to church authorities that he caught Geoghan molesting his son, one of several accusations that emerged from St. Paul's.

**About 1968** Treated at Seton Institute, Baltimore.

**Early 1970s** Joanne Mueller, single mother and member of St. Mary's parish, Melrose, says Geoghan molested her four young boys at this time. Mueller says she informed the Rev. Paul E. Miceli at St. Mary's. Mueller also says Miceli asked her to keep quiet. The family later sues and settles. Miceli disputes her account.

**Sept. 8, 1970** Humberto Medeiros named archbishop of Boston. Appointed cardinal on March 5, 1973. Cardinal Richard J. Cushing dies Nov. 2, 1970.

### **JUNE 4, 1974 – FEB. 12, 1980** **St. Andrew's, Jamaica Plain**

**1977-1978** Geoghan is accused of molesting seven boys in the extended Dussourd family. Six of the children and the mothers later file suits, which are settled.

**Feb. 9, 1980** The Rev. John E. Thomas tells Bishop Thomas V. Daily that Geoghan admitted to molesting the Dussourd children. Daily calls up Geoghan and tells him to go home. Geoghan admits the abuse and says he "does not feel it serious or a pastoral problem."

**Feb. 12, 1980** Placed on sick leave. Counseling ordered by Medeiros. Geoghan undergoes psychoanalysis and psychotherapy with Drs. Robert Mullins and John H. Brennan.

### **FEB. 25, 1981 – SEPT. 18, 1984** **St. Brendan's, Dorchester**

**Early 1980s** Allegedly rapes and fondles Jamaica Plain boy. (Criminal counts 1 and 2 for the pending Suffolk trial.)

**July 24, 1982** Dussourds complain to Daily that Geoghan met one of the molested Dussourd children at an ice cream shop in Jamaica Plain. Was allegedly also seen there with another boy.

**Aug. 10, 1982** Margaret Gallant writes to Medeiros, complains that Geoghan is "still functioning," despite molesting her nephews, the Dussourds.

**Sept. 17, 1983** Medeiros dies.

**March 23, 1984** Bernard F. Law installed as archbishop of Boston. Appointed cardinal on May 25, 1985.

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**Sept. 18, 1984** Law removes Geoghan from parish after complaints he molested boys there.

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**NOV. 13, 1984 – JAN. 12, 1993**

### **St. Julia's, Weston**

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**Nov. 13, 1984** Assigned by Law to St. Julia's, where Monsignor Francis Rossiter is "aware of past allegations." Geoghan is put in charge of three youth groups, including altar boys.

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**Dec. 7, 1984** Auxiliary Bishop John M. D'Arcy writes to Law and complains about Geoghan's assignment to St. Julia's because of his "history of homosexual involvement with young boys."

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**Dec. 11, 1984** Dr. Mullins: Geoghan "fully recovered."

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**Dec. 14, 1984** Dr. Brennan: no restrictions on his work as a parish priest.

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**Feb. 26, 1985** D'Arcy appointed bishop of Fort Wayne/South Bend, Ind.

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**1986** Patrick McSorley of Hyde park says he is molested by Geoghan. Geoghan allegedly molests boys at the Waltham Boys & Girls Club. Bishop Robert J. Banks is told Geoghan is accused of molesting boy at a pool.

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**March 9, 1989** Banks learns of another 1986 accusation.

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**April 3-12, 1989** St. Luke's Institute, Maryland. Diagnosis: homosexual pedophilia.

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**April 28, 1989** Geoghan is told by Bishop Robert J. Banks he had to leave ministry.

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**May 24 - Nov. 17, 1989** Placed on sick leave.

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**Aug. 10, 1989 - Nov. 4, 1989** Treated at Institute of Living, Hartford. Called "moderately improved" on release and recommendation is that he be returned to assignment.

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**Nov. 30, 1989** Banks is unhappy with the Discharge Summary from the Institute for Living because it is different from what he understood and he used it to base his decision on allowing Geoghan to return to St. Julia's.

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**Dec. 13, 1989** Letter to Banks explaining the Discharge Summary: "The probability he would act out again is quite low. However, we could not guarantee that it would not re-occur." Return to parish OK'd.

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**Nov. 28, 1990** Note from Banks: "I would recommend him for parish, but decision left up to [another bishop] and BFL"—Cardinal Law.

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**Dec. 7, 1990** Letter from Dr. Brennan: Geoghan OK for pastoral work.

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**Oct. 23, 1991** Complaint about Geoghan "proselytizing" at a pool with a boy.

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**1993-1996**

### **Regina Cleri residence for retired priests**

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**April 4, 1994** Mother says Geoghan abused her son while he was at St. Paul's in Hingham. Geoghan denies the accusation.

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**Nov. 1994** Single mother from Waltham calls church to say Geoghan molested her four boys and made obscene phone calls to them. Placed on pre-trial probation. The case was dropped.

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**Jan. 16-25, 1995** St. Luke's report states: He "has a long history of pedophilic behavior ... Father Geoghan should have no interpersonal contact with male minors that is unsupervised."

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**1995** Geoghan allegedly molests a Weymouth boy, including at the christening of boy's sister. (Criminal counts 3 and 4 in Suffolk.)

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**July 29, 1996** Spends four to six months in Southdown Institute, Ontario, for therapy.

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**1997**

### **Clergy personnel office**

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**1998** Geoghan defrocked. Church settles 50 sex abuse cases against Geoghan for more than \$10 million; 84 other cases pending.