

Rev. Romano J. Ferraro—Assignment Record

Summary of Case: Ferraro was arrested on 4/1/02 for repeatedly raping a boy 1973-80 in Billerica MA, starting when the boy was 7 years old. Ferraro was convicted on 5/7/04, when a jury found him guilty of child rape and guilty on three counts of indecent assault and battery against a child under 14. He was sentenced on 5/20/04 to life in prison. Ferraro was a childhood friend of the boy's father and molested the child during annual Christmas visits. The victim had come forward to authorities in late 2001, and it was possible to prosecute because the SOL clock, which precluded bringing charges six years or more after a crime is committed, had stopped with Ferraro out of state. Ferraro denied the charge but admitted at the trial that he was a pedophile predator who had abused perhaps dozens of boys. He also stated that he knew he was a pedophile by 1955, 5 years before his ordination. Earliest abuse alleged in civil suits was 1964-68 but previous assignments suggest earlier problems. Then he was in Key West FL as Navy chaplain 1968-71 in the Miami archdiocese; was dishonorably discharged; and was sued 1/06 for FL abuse. Reassigned, he allegedly abused in the Brooklyn, Rockville Centre, St. Louis, and Metuchen dioceses. A St. Louis man who alleged abuse by Ferraro committed suicide in 2006 after a long struggle with depression. Ferraro was suspended in 1988 after an allegation, but the Brooklyn diocese apparently knew much earlier (see [discussion](#) below).

Ordained: 1960

Incardinated: Brooklyn NY (1960-85); Metuchen NJ (1985-86); Brooklyn NY (1986-2007)








Rev. Romano J. Ferraro in the vestibule of St. Joseph's church in Kings Park in the Rockville Centre diocese on December 25, 1975 or 1974. His is posing with several children and a teenager dressed as Santa Claus. Photo donated by a former parishioner; cropped and redacted by BishopAccountability.org.





Ferraro at his arraignment on April 8, 2002 in Cambridge MA on charges of child rape and abuse.


Start	Stop	Parish	Town/Allegation	State	Position	Notes
1960	1962	St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church 185 Suydam St. (see satellite photo/map)	Brooklyn Bushwick • Ferraro knew he	NY	3/3. Priests were Msgr. Raphael J. Testagrossa , Rev. Joseph	Listed as a Brooklyn priest. Parish school had




<p>Bryan J. McEntegart (1957-68).</p>			<p>was a pedophile in 1955, five years before he was ordained, according to his testimony in his 2004 criminal trial. See article.</p>		<p>DeSimpliciis, and Ferraro. In 1961, Rev. Angelo F. Brugli replaced DeSimpliciis.</p>	<p>523 boys and 513 girls.</p>
<p>1962</p>	<p>1963</p>	<p>St. Rosalia's 63rd St. and 14th Ave. (see satellite photo/map)</p> 	<p>Brooklyn Borough Park</p>	<p>NY</p>	<p>3/6. Priests were Msgr. Angelo R. Cioffi and Revs. Charles Mariani, Ferraro, Joseph Zeman, Vincent Attanasio, and Felix Miritello. Residence at 1230 65th St.</p>	<p>Listed as a Brooklyn priest. Parish school had 565 boys and 528 girls.</p>
<p>1962</p>	<p>1963</p>	<p>Regina Pacis Votive Shrine 65th Street and 12th Ave.</p>	<p>Brooklyn</p>	<p>NY</p>		<p>Mission of St. Rosalia's.</p>
<p>1963</p>	<p>1964</p>	<p>St. Lucy's (Italian) Kent Ave. near Park Ave. (see satellite photo/map)</p>	<p>Brooklyn</p>	<p>NY</p>	<p>3/3. Priests were Msgr. Dante Del Fiorentino and Revs. Angelo Moschella and Ferraro. Residence was at 802 Kent Ave., 11205.</p>	<p>Listed as a Brooklyn priest.</p>
<p>1964</p>	<p>6/68</p>	<p>Holy Family Flatlands Ave. and Rockaway Pkwy. (see satellite photo/map)</p> 	<p>Brooklyn Canarsie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accused in 10/1/03 suit of sexually abusing an altar boy in this parish starting at age 8. Suit claims Ferraro abused altar boys in a local pool, where the abuse included oral sex, and on school trips to NJ and at the home of a friend. See article and excerpts from complaint. 	<p>NY</p>	<p>4/5. Priests were Msgr. Vincent O. Genova and Revs. Raphael A. Florida, Andrew R. Varano, Ferraro, and Walter A. Mitchell. Residence was at 9719 Flatlands Ave., 11236. Mitchell left in 1965.</p>	<p>Listed as a Brooklyn priest. Parish school had 771 boys and 723 girls.</p>
<p>6/68 Brooklyn and the Military Ordinariate</p>	<p>1971</p>	<p>U.S. Naval Air Station</p>	<p>Key West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accused in 1/06 suit of sexually abusing an 11- 	<p>FL</p>	<p>Chaplain.</p>	<p>Listed as a Brooklyn priest. Indexed as an Army chaplain and listed in</p>

<p>were in transition in 1968. Cardinal Spellman had died on 12/2/67, and Terence J. Cooke became archbishop of New York and Military Vicar on 4/4/68. In Brooklyn, McEntegart retired on 7/15/68 and Francis J. Mugavero was appointed bishop on 7/17/68. On 9/12/68 he was installed, and McEntegart died on 9/30/68.</p>			<p>year-old boy in 1968 or 1969, at gatherings of boys brought to Ferraro's house from Mass at Navy base chapel. See article.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dishonorably discharged from Navy in 1971 after allegations of sexually abuse. See article. 			<p>Brooklyn pages as a Navy and VA chaplain, but listed in AMS pages as an active duty Navy Reserve chaplain. Key West is in the Miami archdiocese.</p>
<p>1971</p> <p>Bishop was Francis J. Mugavero (1968-90), who had been McEntegart's secretary for charities. One of the vice chancellors was Anthony J. Bevilacqua.</p>	<p>1973</p>	<p>St. Rose of Lima (see satellite photo/map)</p> 	<p>Brooklyn Far Rockaway</p>	<p>NY</p>	<p>3/3. Priests were Revs. James F. McDonald, Francis J. McGee, and Ferraro. Residence was at 1-30 Beach 84th St. Rev. Karl M. Michel replaced McDonald as pastor in 1972.</p>	<p>Listed as a Brooklyn priest.</p> <p>Parish school had 304 boys and 307 girls.</p>
<p>1973</p> <p>Bishop of Rockville Centre was Walter P. Kellenberg (1957-76). His Episcopal Vicar for Suffolk was Auxiliary Bishop John R. McGann.</p>	<p>1977</p>	<p>St. Joseph's Old Dock Rd. and Church St. (see satellite photo/map)</p> 	<p>Kings Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accused in 10/15/02 suit of sexually abusing 2 boys here 1974-78, starting at ages 10 and 11. Abuse included oral sex, sodomy, and attempted anal penetration of one boy. See article. 	<p>NY</p>	<p>4/4. Other priests were Revs. Francis P. McCormack, Edward J. Boyle, and John L. King. Ferraro is not listed in the <i>Directory</i>. Frederic C. Heiden replaced Boyle in 1974. Lee W. Freeman replaced Heiden</p>	<p>Parish is in Rockville Centre diocese. Ferraro was listed as a Brooklyn priest on leave with no parish specified. But after Ferraro's 2004 conviction in MA, a pastor confirmed (see article) that Ferraro worked at St. Joseph's</p>


<p>As Ferraro began his last year at Kings Park, John R. McGann became bishop of Rockville Centre (1976-2000).</p>			<p>which misidentifies the parish as St. Joseph's in Astoria (see map), aka Long Island City, in the Brooklyn diocese. In 2004 article, it was confirmed that Ferraro worked at St. Joseph's in Kings Park in the Rockville Centre diocese 1973-77.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convicted of repeatedly raping the son of a boyhood friend during Ferraro's Christmas visits to Billerica MA in 1973-80, starting when the boy was age 7. Convicted and sentenced to life in prison on 5/20/04. Ferraro admitted to perhaps dozens of victims but denied he molested the MA boy. See article. • Accused of transporting a boy from this parish to Billerica MA and abusing him along with the boy whom Ferraro was convicted of raping. See article. 	<p>in 1975. The 1977 <i>Directory</i> begins to list St. Joseph's School of Religion, with Bro. Franciscus Rowles OSF.</p>	<p>1973-77. It was not mentioned that Ferraro had allegedly taken a boy from the parish and molested him in MA.</p> <p>A 2002 news report quotes diocesan spokesman Frank DeRosa as stating that Ferraro was on leave 1973-83 and then returned as a working priest. See article.</p>
<p>1977</p>	<p>1978</p>	<p>St. Francis Xavier Carroll St. and 6th Ave. (see satellite photo/map)</p>	<p>Brooklyn Park Slope</p>	<p>5/5. Priests were Revs. John J. Ansbro, Richard</p>	<p>Listed as a Brooklyn priest.</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abuse of MA victim continued while Ferraro was at this parish. 		H. Reder , James R. Lara , Theodore Martin (Spain), and Ferraro (in residence). Residence was at 225 6th Ave., 11215.	Parish school had 503 students.
1978	1979	St. Aloysius (see satellite photo/map)	<p>Queens Ridgewood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abuse of MA victim continued while Ferraro was at this parish. 		5/5. Priests were Revs. George Schuster , Peter I. Vaccari , Anthony V. DiLorenzo , Maximo Ocampo (Philippines), Anthony Acciarito , and Ferraro (in residence). Residence was at 382 Onderdonk Ave., Ridgewood, 11237.	Listed as a Brooklyn priest. Parish school had 515 students.
1979	3/80	Whereabouts unknown				
3/80	1/81	House of Affirmation 4 Joy Ave. (see satellite photo/map)	Webster Groves	MO		Listed in the 1980-84 <i>Directory</i> as a Brooklyn priest on sick leave in the Brooklyn diocese and released from diocesan assignment. But a letter by Bevilacqua and a letter by Ferraro show that Ferraro was in treatment at the House of Affirmation.
1/19/81	1983	St. Joan of Arc 5800 Oleatha Avenue (see satellite photo/map) 	St. Louis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accused in 1/19/04 suit of sexually abusing an altar boy here. See article. Accused in 5/11/04 suit of sexually abusing an altar boy at 	MO	In residence while a chaplain at Jewish Hospital (see next entry). Other priests at parish were Msgr. James E. Pieper , Michael A. Freymuth , and Charles M. Donahue . Pieper was vice-officialis	In St. Louis archdiocese. Listed as a Brooklyn priest but not listed as working at St. Joan of Arc. Residence and assignment confirmed by the archdiocese of St. Louis. See article .

			<p>age 11 or 12. See article. This suit and previous one were settled 8/26/04 by archdiocese for \$65.7K. See article.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accused in 3/13/06 wrongful death suit of sexually abusing a boy repeatedly at age 10 or 11. The victim, called John Doe GS in court documents, struggled with depression and shot himself 7/14/05. See complaint and article. 		of the archdiocese. Freymuth has been accused of sexual abuse.	Frank De Rosa, spokesman of the Brooklyn diocese, stated in 1/04 that when the treatment center advised that Ferraro do "some kind of ministry," he was assigned to St. Joan of Arc while he continued outpatient treatment. See article . See also the letter by Bevilacqua . The letter by Ferraro shows that Ferraro's assignments in St. Louis were extended into 1983 at the request of Brooklyn bishop Mugavero.
1981	1983	Jewish Hospital 	St. Louis	MO		In St. Louis archdiocese. Listed as a Brooklyn priest but not listed here.
1981	1983	Unknown hospital	St. Louis	MO		The letter by Bevilacqua mentions a second hospital assignment, not yet named in news reports.
1983	6/84	Whereabouts unknown				Listed as a Brooklyn priest on sick leave in the Brooklyn diocese and released from diocesan assignment.
6/84	11/84	St. James (see satellite photo/map)	Woodbridge	NJ	4/4. Priests were	Listed as a Brooklyn priest.

<p>Bishop of Metuchen was Theodore E. McCarrick (1981-86).</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accused of sexually abusing 2 brothers in NJ, probably from this parish or St. John Vianney, for which see next entry. See article. 		<p>Crine, Francis Vaz, Douglas J. Haefner, and Ferraro. Residence was at 145 Grove St. 07095.</p>	<p>St. James is in the Metuchen diocese. Parish school had 290 students. Note that Ferraro is not included in the parish listing. His assignment to St. James is listed only in the Brooklyn pages, in the section "Released from diocesan assignment."</p>
<p>11/84</p>	<p>6/85</p>	<p>Our Lady of Mount Virgin (see satellite photo/map)</p> 	<p>Middlesex</p>	<p>NJ</p>	<p>3/3. Priests were Very Rev. William J. Haughney, Rev. Patrick S. Durkin, and Ferraro. Haughney was the officialis of the diocese, and presumably Ferraro's minder, just as Pieper was at St. Joan of Arc in St. Louis (see above). Residence in Middlesex was at 650 Harris Ave, 08846.</p>	<p>Listed as a Brooklyn priest. Our Lady's is in the Metuchen diocese. This assignment is not listed in the <i>Directory</i>. We know of it because Bishop Bootkoski wrote to this diocese about Ferraro on 5/28/04. See article. Parish school had 200 students.</p>
<p>6/85</p> <p>Metuchen was a vacant see when Ferraro was placed on leave. McCarrick had been installed as archbishop of Newark on 7/25/86, and his successor in Metuchen, Edward T. Hughes, was appointed 12/15/86 and installed 2/5/87.</p>	<p>1/87</p>	<p>St. John Vianney (see satellite photo/map)</p> 	<p>Colonia</p>	<p>NJ</p>	<p>2/3. Priests were Revs. Francis J. Sergel, Ferraro, and Lawrence J. Cashioli. Residence was at 420 Inman Ave., 07067. Sergel told parishioners on 12/14/86 that Ferraro had been "granted a temporary leave of absence for reasons that are both personal and parochial." Ferraro had been</p>	<p>Listed as a Metuchen priest. Parish school had 371 students.</p>

					"victimized by our unconscionable press" after he told parish children on 12/6/86 that their parents were lying to them about Santa Claus. See article .	
1986	1989	Whereabouts unknown	Brooklyn diocese reportedly received an allegation from a Brooklyn family in 1988 and "resolved" the accusation to the family's satisfaction (see article); since then, Ferraro hadn't been allowed to say Mass, to give baptism or to hear confessions (see article).		During his criminal trial, Ferraro is reported to have stated that he received treatment in 1989 and did not sexually abuse boys afterward. See article .	Listed as a Brooklyn priest on sick leave. In 1987 <i>Directory</i> , also listed as released from diocesan assignment.
1989	2002	Parsons Manor	Jamaica Ferraro was arrested here on 4/1/02 and arraigned on 4/7/02 for raping a boy in Billerica MA.	NY	Priests were Msgr. Joseph M. Dolan and Revs. John S. Hunt , John L. Kiernan , Daniel J. Sheehan , James Patrick Sweeney , Ferraro, and Jose Cadusale (Philippines). All worked at the Medical Center or as chaplains at institutions in the area. But Ferraro's assignment, if any, is not specified in the <i>Directory</i> . Dolan died in 1990. Sweeney left in 1993 and returned in 1996. Rev. Louis D. Aufiero arrived in 1999.	Listed as a Brooklyn priest on sick leave. Parsons Manor was in the complex of the Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn & Queens. East across Parsons Blvd. from the complex was Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary church and school.
5/7/04		Middlesex Superior	Cambridge	MA	Convicted.	

Nicholas A. DiMarzio was bishop of Brooklyn 2003-).		Court				
5/20/04		Middlesex Superior Court	Cambridge	MA	Sentenced to life in prison by Judge Raymond Brassard.	Romano is not indexed or listed in the 2003-2005 <i>Directory</i> . In the 2006 and 2007 <i>Directory</i> he is indexed as on leave / unassigned.
5/20/04		MCI-Cedar Junction 	South Walpole	MA		Maximum security prison.

Source: *Official Catholic Directory* (New York: Kenedy & Sons, 1961-2007). See also:

- [Letter from Bevilacqua to Wurm about Ferraro's Treatment and St. Louis Assignments](#) (January 16, 1981)
- [Letter from Ferraro to May about Extending St. Louis Assignments](#) (April 28, 1982)
- [Priest Who Said Santa Is Dead Takes Leave of Absence](#), Associated Press (December 15, 1986)
- [A Leave Is Granted to Priest in Santa Dispute](#), by Alfonso A. Narvaez, New York Times (December 16, 1986)
- [Priest Busted in Rape](#), by Philip Messing and Dan Mangan, New York Post (April 2, 2002)
- [Queens Priest Faces Charges: Alleged Sex Abuse Occurred in '70s](#), by Melanie Lefkowitz, Newsday (April 2, 2002)
- [Queens Priest Arraigned on Sex Abuse Rap](#), by Scott Shifrel and Austin Fenner Daily, New York Daily News (April 3, 2002)
- [Charged Priest Served St. Rose in 70's](#), by Howard Schwach, The Wave (April 6, 2002)
- [Brooklyn Priest Pleads Not Guilty to Assaults](#), by John Ellement, Boston Globe (April 9, 2002)
- [Priest-Sex Suit Seeks \\$300M Diocese of B'klyn Hit](#), by Barbara Ross and Dave Goldiner, New York Daily News (October 16, 2002)
- [Twelve Priests, One Brother Named in Lawsuit](#), Newsday (October 16, 2002)
- [Queens Clergymen Accused in Civil Sex Suit](#), Flushing Times Ledger (October 17, 2002)
- [The Accused](#), USA Today (November 11, 2002)
- [Complaint Filed in Supreme Court: Portions Relating to Rev. Romano J. Ferraro](#) (October 1, 2003)
- [More Abuse Claims: 24 Priests Named in \\$300m Suit](#), by Stephanie Saul, Newsday (October 2, 2003)
- [Suit Claims Priest Abused Youth in '80s: Cleric Is Defendant in Criminal Case near Boston, Civil Case in New York](#), by Tim Bryant, St. Louis Post-Dispatch (January 21, 2004)
- [Ex-Billerica Man Testifies of Alleged Abuse](#), by Lisa Redmond, Lowell Sun (May 5, 2004)
- ['I Never Had Sex with Him': Admitted Pedophile Priest Denies Molesting Former Billerica Boy](#), by Lisa Redmond, Lowell Sun (May 6, 2004)
- [N.Y. Priest Convicted in Billerica Boy's Rape 20 Years Ago](#), by Peter Ward, Lowell Sun (May 8, 2004)
- [Man Alleges Abuse by Priest in Early 1980s](#), by Betsy Taylor, Associated Press (May 11, 2004)
- [Life Term in Billerica Abuse: N.Y. Pedophile Priest Molested Local Boy, Now 37, during Home Visits over 11 Years](#), by Lisa Redmond, Lowell Sun (May 21, 2004)
- [New York Priest Receives Life Sentence for Child Rape](#), Associated Press (May 21, 2004)
- [Abusive Cleric Gets Life](#), by Mary Ann Bourbeau, Home News Tribune (June 17, 2004)
- [Bishop Bootkoski Addresses Father Ferraro's Former Ministry in Diocese](#), by Chris Donahue, Catholic Spirit (June 24, 2004)

- [Kings Park Parish to Hear of Priest's Sex Abuse](#), by Samuel Bruchey, Newsday (August 25, 2004)
- [Diocese Settles 18 Abuse Suits](#), by Tim Townsend, St. Louis Post-Dispatch (August 26, 2004)
- [Man Sues Military Archdiocese. Says He Was Abused in Key West](#), by Becky Iannotta, KeyNews.com (January 10, 2006)
- [Navy Pilot's Son Sues Priest. Alleges Sex Abuse](#), Post-Dispatch (January 11, 2006)
- [New Complaint Against Priest](#), by Stephanie Saul, Newsday (January 21, 2004)
- [Amended Petition. Jury Trial Demanded](#), in Mary Doe GS v. Father Romano Ferraro, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis, and Archbishop Raymond Burke, Cause No. 052-01702 (March 13, 2006)
- [Abuse by Priest Led to Suicide. Suit Says](#), by Robert Patrick, St. Louis Post-Dispatch (March 13, 2006)
- [Statement of Mary Doe GS. Widow of John Doe GS](#), posted by SNAP Midwest (March 13, 2006)
- [Statement of Sister of John Doe GS](#), posted by SNAP Midwest (March 13, 2006)
- [Statement of the Archdiocese of St. Louis Regarding Wrongful Death Suit](#) (March 13, 2006)

Knowledge of Ferraro's Pedophilia

The public began to learn about Ferraro's crimes when he was arrested on 4/1/02. But Ferraro's superiors appear to have known about him long before. Diocesan statements at the time of the arrest indicated that a complaint had been received from a family in 1988, and that Ferraro had been put on leave, for reasons unspecified, in 1973. But evidence indicates that the diocese knew even earlier.

- **1955** Five years before ordination, Ferraro knew he "had a desire for young boys" and considered this "an illness," according to his 2004 testimony in his criminal trial. It is not known whether these facts were revealed during seminary screening or training, and whether Ferraro's personnel file shows this.
- **1964** By this year, Ferraro had worked in 3 parishes in 4 years, all led by monsignors and the last one with no school. Frequent transfers without advancement and under senior supervision are often signs of a problem, and abusers are sometimes shunted to parishes without schools in an attempt to limit their access to victims. [Brooklyn bishop was Bryan J. McEntegart \(1957-68\)](#).
- **1968** After 4 years at his fourth parish, Holy Family in Canarsie, Ferraro was loaned by the Brooklyn diocese in 1968 to the Military Ordinariate and assigned as a Navy Reserve chaplain at the Naval Air Station in Key West FL. Ferraro would later be accused in a civil suit of abusing an 8-year-old boy at Holy Family, immediately before the Navy chaplaincy. The suit claims that Ferraro engaged in sexual misconduct with groups of boys. Did that abuse come to the attention of the Brooklyn diocese, and was Ferraro sent into the military as a result? See Thomas P. Doyle on this practice in the [Peebles case](#). [Brooklyn and the Military Ordinariate were in transition in 1968. Cardinal Spellman had died on 12/2/67, and Terence J. Cooke became archbishop of New York and Military Vicar on 4/4/68. In Brooklyn, McEntegart retired on 7/15/68 and Francis J. Mugavero was appointed bishop on 7/17/68. On 9/12/68 he was installed, and McEntegart died on 9/30/68.](#)
- **1971** Ferraro reportedly received a dishonorable discharge from the Navy, after allegations of sexual abuse. He would later be accused in a civil suit of sexually abusing a boy during his Navy chaplaincy, at parties where he would behave in a sexual way with other boys. The Brooklyn diocese was certainly apprised of Ferraro's dishonorable discharge and the reasons for it. [Cardinal Cooke was Military Vicar and Mugavero was bishop of Brooklyn](#).
- **1973** After only two years at his new Brooklyn parish, St. Rose of Lima in Far Rockaway, Ferraro was transferred yet again in 1973, this time to St. Joseph's in Kings Park in the Rockville Centre diocese. This unusual assignment was not listed by the Brooklyn diocese in the *Official Catholic Directory*, where Brooklyn described Ferraro as "on leave." Nor did Rockville Centre list him as a priest at St. Joseph's. Whatever happened while Ferraro was at St. Rose, it was serious enough to prompt a 50-mile transfer to another diocese and total concealment in the *Directory*. This assignment would still be unknown, but for the alertness of a VOTF-Long Island member. While Ferraro was under the radar at this parish, he began to rape the son of an old friend during Christmas visits to Billerica MA. Once he brought a boy from Kings Park to MA and molested him too. Ferraro is also accused of sexually abusing two other boys at this parish. [Mugavero was bishop of Brooklyn and Kellenberg was bishop of Rockville Centre](#).
- **1977** When Ferraro was brought back to the Brooklyn diocese in 1977 and assigned to St. Francis Xavier in Park Slope, he is listed as "in residence." This is a very common assignment for priests who have been accused of sexual abuse. This parish had a school. [Mugavero was bishop of Brooklyn](#).

- **1978** Ferraro is shifted for a year to St. Aloysius in the Ridgewood section of Queens, still in the Brooklyn diocese, and again he is "in residence." This parish had a school. [Mugavero was bishop of Brooklyn.](#)
- **1979** Ferraro began another two years off the radar, listed as on sick leave. It is not known whether he was in treatment, or assigned secretly to a parish, as he was in 1973-77. [Mugavero was bishop of Brooklyn.](#)
- **1981** Ferraro began a two-year assignment as a chaplain at Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. He lived at St. Joan of Arc parish, where Rev. James E. Pieper, vice-officialis of the archdiocese, was the pastor and Ferraro's minder. Once again, this assignment is not listed in the *Directory*, where Ferraro is described as "on sick leave." This St. Louis assignment was made public only in 2004, when a man allegedly molested by Ferraro at St. Joan's filed suit. In 2006, another Ferraro accuser from St. Joan's committed suicide after a long struggle with depression. [Mugavero was bishop of Brooklyn and John L. May was archbishop of St. Louis.](#)
- **1983** Ferraro began another year off the radar, listed by the Brooklyn diocese as on sick leave. It is not known whether he was in treatment, or assigned secretly to a parish, as he was in 1973-77. [Mugavero was bishop of Brooklyn.](#)
- **1984** Ferraro began to work in the Metuchen NJ diocese, first at St. James in Woodbridge (1984-85) and then at St. John Vianney in Colonia (1985-86). In the 1985 *Directory*, the Brooklyn section lists him at St. James but the Metuchen section does not. In the 1986 *Directory*, he is listed in the Metuchen section as working at St. John Vianney, and he is indexed as incardinated in Metuchen. Parishioners were not told of Ferraro's past. He is accused of abusing two brothers in NJ. [Mugavero was bishop of Brooklyn and Theodore E. McCarrick was bishop of Metuchen.](#)
- **1986** Ferraro is put on leave after publicity about a children's Mass at which Ferraro said that Santa Claus was dead. In the 1987 *Directory*, he is a Brooklyn priest, released from diocesan assignment. After a 1988 allegation and treatment, Ferraro would live until his 2002 arrest at Parsons Manor, with his faculties revoked. It is not known whether he worked as a hospital chaplain or in some other job in 1988-2002. [Metuchen was a vacant see when Ferraro was placed on leave. McCarrick had been installed as archbishop of Newark on 7/25/86, and his successor in Metuchen, Edward T. Hughes, was appointed 12/15/86, on the very day that Ferraro went on leave. Mugavero was bishop of Brooklyn.](#)

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 Ferraro's career history as it is represented in the *Official Catholic Directory* with his conviction and allegations as they are reported in the media. We make no representation regarding the truth of the allegation we report. We remind our readers that in the U.S. judicial system, a person is considered innocent until proven guilty.

A Note on Nomenclature: We use the term "assignment record," instead of the more common "service record," because "service" is not an appropriate word for the activities of an abusive priest. Dioceses are often less than forthcoming about the activities of retired priests, but when we can determine those activities, we list them in these assignment records, particularly if they involve ministry. Retired priests remain under obedience to their bishop, and even the activities of laicized priests should be a concern to the diocese.

This assignment record was last updated on 12/18/07.