

Assignment Record– Rev. Donald Bolton, C.S.S.R.

Summary of Case: Donald Bolton was ordained for the Redemptorist Order's Baltimore Province in 1952. He worked in Brazil for many years, returning to the U.S. in 1970 to a Redemptorist retreat house in Canaidagua NY. From 1974-84 Bolton was assigned to St. Gregory's in North East PA. It was there that the parents of a 7-year-old girl reported to the Redemptorists that Bolton had molested their daughter over a two-year period. He was transferred to a Brooklyn NY parish. When the parents of the little girl discovered he was teaching school in NY, they went to law enforcement. Bolton was charged in November 1986 with indecent assault and corruption of minors. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced in February 1987 to three years' probation. He spent those three years at a Hampton VA retreat house. In 1990 he moved to a New Smyrna Beach FL Redemptorist residence, and to another in Saratoga Springs NY in 2003. He died October 27, 2006.

Ordained: 1952

Died: October 27, 2006

Start	Stop	Assignments	Town/ Accusations	State/ Country	Position	Notes
1952	1954	Mount St. Alphonsus	Esopus	NY	student priest	This was a Redemptorist Fathers' House of Studies. In the 1954 <i>Directory</i> , Bolton is indexed as at Mount St. Alphonsus, but he is not listed in the New York pages as there.
<p style="color: magenta;">Archdiocese of New York Archbishop was Francis Joseph Spellman (1939-1967).</p>						

<p>1954</p> <p>Diocese of Corumbá until 1957; under Diocese of Dourados 1957-59.</p> <p>Corumbá bishop was Orlando Chaves, S.D.B. (1948-1956), followed by Ladislau Paz, S.D.B. (1957-1978). Dourados bishop was Jose de Aquino Pereira (1958-1960).</p>	<p>1959</p>	<p>Bela Vista</p>	<p>Mato Grosso</p>	<p>Brazil</p>	<p>5/5, 4/5, 3/5, 3/6, 2/6</p>	
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1959 Diocese of Campo Grande Bishop was Antonio Barbosa, S.D.B. (1958-1986).	1962	Campo Grande	Mato Grosso	Brazil	7/8, 6/8, 6/9	
1962 Diocese of Corumbá Bishop was Ladislau Paz, S.D.B. (1957-1978).	1967	Bela Vista	Matto Grosso	Brazil	1/4, 1/5 Rector ; "Very Rev. 1965-67	

<p>1967</p> <p>Diocese of Ponta Grossa</p> <p>Bishop was Geraldino Claudio Luiz Michelotto Pellanda, C.P. (1965-1991).</p>	<p>1969</p>	<p>Monte Alegre</p>	<p>Parana</p>	<p>Brazil</p>	<p>5/6, 5/8</p>	
<p>1969</p> <p>Diocese of Parana guá</p> <p>Bishop was Bernardo José Nolker, C.S.S.R. (1963-1989).</p>	<p>1970</p>	<p>Rocio</p>	<p>Parana</p>	<p>Brazil</p>	<p>2/3</p>	

<p>1970</p> <p>Diocese of Rochester</p> <p>Bishop was Joseph Lloyd Hogan (1969-1978).</p>	<p>1974</p>	<p>Notre Dame Retreat House</p>	<p>Canadaigua</p>	<p>NY</p>	<p>2/5</p>	
<p>1974</p> <p>Diocese of Erie</p> <p>Bishop was Alfred Michael Watson (1969-1982), followed by Michael Joseph Murphy (1982-1990).</p>	<p>1984</p>	<p>St. Gregory Thaumaturgus</p>	<p>North East</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents of a 7-year-old girl told the Erie County Assistant D.A. that Bolton had <u>molested their daughter</u> over a two-year period. The family were St. Gregory's parishioners. They went to law enforcement after discovering that Bolton was teaching at a New York school; they said the Redemptorists had promised them that Bolton would never again work with children. 	<p>PA</p>	<p>2/2, 2/3, 3/3, 2/3, 2/4</p>	<p>St. Gregory's had a school with 198-260 students.</p>

<p>1984</p> <p>Diocese of Brooklyn</p> <p>Bishop was Francis John Mugavero (1968-1990).</p>	<p>1987</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Basilica</p>	<p>Brooklyn</p>	<p>NY</p>	<p>9/24, 9/23, 6/21</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help had a grade school with 809-668 students, and a high school (numbers of students not noted).</p> <p>Bolton was charged in November 1986 with indecent assault and corruption of minors, due to the allegation he had molested a young girl while assigned to St. Gregory's in North East PA. He <u>pleaded guilty</u> and was sentenced in February 1987 to three years' probation.</p>
<p>1987</p> <p>Diocese of Richmond</p> <p>Bishop was Walter Francis Sullivan (1974-2003).</p>	<p>1990</p>	<p>Holy Family Retreat House</p>	<p>Hampton</p>	<p>VA</p>	<p>2/3, 2/5 "Promotion" 1987-88.</p>	

<p>1990 Diocese of Orlando Bishop was Norbert Mary Leonard James Dorsey, C.P. (1990-2004).</p>	<p>2003</p>	<p>St. Alphonsus Villa-Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers</p>	<p>New Smyrna Beach</p>	<p>FL</p>		
<p>2003 Diocese of Albany Bishop was Howard James Hubbard (1977-2014).</p>	<p>2006</p>	<p>St. John Neumann Residence</p>	<p>Saratoga Springs</p>	<p>NY</p>		<p>Per his Order, Bolton died at October 27, 2006, at age 80.</p>

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](#).

Sources: *Official Catholic Directory* (Kenedy & Sons, 1953-2011)

- [A Greater Openness](#), by Eleanor Bergholz, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, August 25, 1987
- [Deaths](#), SCALA Redemptorist Newsletter, November 16, 2006

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 Bolton's career history as it is represented in the *Official Catholic Directory* with the allegations against him, as reported in the media. We make no representation regarding the truth of the allegations 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](#).

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