



## Fr. Michael Freeman Assignment History

1972	Ordained	
1972-75	Parochial Vicar, St. Margaret Church & School	Buffalo, NY
1975-76	Parochial Vicar, St. Lawrence Church & School	Buffalo, NY
1976-80	Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart Church & School	Niagara Falls, NY
1980-81	Chaplain, United States Army	Ft. Benning, GA
1981-82	Chaplain, United States Army	Mailing address Diocese of Buffalo Chancery
1982-84	Parochial Vicar, St. Christopher Church & School	Tonawanda, NY
1984-89	Parochial Vicar, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church & School	Lancaster, NY
1990	Not indexed in the Official Catholic Directory	Whereabouts unknown

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From p. 407 of the [PA 40th Investigating Grand Jury Report](#):

“Based on the information provided to the Grand Jury by the Diocese of Erie, the Grand Jury learned that Father Robert Freeman had some contact with the Diocese of Erie but he was not incardinated into the Diocese as a Diocesan priest. In fact, Freeman was a priest in the Diocese of Buffalo, New York. Father Freeman was ordained May 27, 1972. In five of his six subsequent assignments he admitted inappropriate sexual behavior with young men on multiple occasions. These instances of sexual abuse occurred while he acted in his capacity as a priest of the Diocese of Buffalo but while he ministered in various assignments to include locations within Pennsylvania. The Diocese of Buffalo first became aware of Freeman’s criminal activity in November 1981. Freeman admitted prior sexual misconduct at both St. Margaret and St. Lawrence Parishes in New York. This included his term of service at Bishop Turner High School. The Buffalo Diocese continued to permit Freeman to serve in active ministry until March 1989 and continued to provide financial aid to Freeman until July 31, 1999, at which time he informed the Diocese that his salary and health insurance would be covered by his new employer.

The Grand Jury found no documentation in Freeman’s file that indicated that the Dioceses of Buffalo or Erie ever notified law enforcement officials, despite the fact that Freeman admitted to sexually violating children in at least five of his six ministry assignments. On two occasions he was treated at the Southdown Institute, a psychiatric facility for clergy and religious personnel in Aurora, Ontario. While one of Freeman’s assignments was as a military chaplain, locations within Pennsylvania at which Freeman may have sexually abused children include the counties of Bradford and Lancaster.”

NB: The PA Grand Jury Report notes in its assignment history of Freeman that he served at **St. Christopher, Tonawanda PA** and **St. Mary, Lancaster PA**. Both are incorrect, as Freeman was known to have served at these parishes and in these towns in New York State within the Diocese of Buffalo. The town of Towanda, PA is in Bradford County in Pennsylvania. There is a Lancaster County in Pennsylvania. There is no evidence in the directories that Freeman served in either county in Pennsylvania, neither of which is in the Diocese of Erie. There is no such

place as Tonawanda, PA. The Grand Jury notes that Freeman offended in 5 of 6 assignments. Five of six of his assignments were in the Diocese of Buffalo. The sixth was in the US military.