

Chronology of Fr. J. Bryan Hehir

1940	August 22. Joseph Bryan Hehir born in Lowell, Massachusetts to Mr. and Mrs. John J. Hehir. He grows up in Chelmsford.
1966	May 26. J. Bryan Hehir is ordained in Boston.
1973	Began working at U.S. Bishops conference (NCCB). Worked there from 1973 to 1992.
1974	As key policy adviser for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Fr. Hehir urged the Vatican and Catholic bishops that the Church can "regard contraceptive practice as an issue of private morality that the church continues to teach for its members, but not an issue of public morality on which it seeks to affect public policy" (Theological Studies, March 1974). This became the basis for the Holy See's position at the UN Population Conference in Budapest.
1977	Earns doctorate in theology from Harvard Divinity School.
1983	May 3. U.S. Bishops issue pastoral letter on nuclear disarmament. "The Challenge of Peace." Fr. Hehir is credited with being chief author of the letter. Drafting committee members included then-Cardinal Joseph Bernadin and Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton. The drafters consistently opposed the build-up of American forces and U.S. military aid and intervention abroad. In criticizing Reagan administration defense policies almost across the board, the Bishops and their advisors arrived at essentially pacifist recommendations . The recommendations of "The Challenge of Peace" would later be proven wrong by history, including the Reagan-era arms buildup that helped end the Cold War.
	Fr. Hehir along with Mary E. Hunt gives lecture series "Matthew, Marx, Luke, John" at Washington DC's Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) . Since its founding in 1963, the IPS has steadily followed a pro-Marxist line on foreign policy, defense and the economy and has consistently supported policies that facilitated foreign policy goals of the Soviet Union and weakened the position of the U.S. The IPS has been described in National Review as the "perfect intellectual front for Soviet activities which would be resisted were they to originate openly from the KGB."
1984	Mario Cuomo, as presidential candidate, gives speech at Notre Dame espousing that his views as a Catholic were a matter of personal morality, and his public position—in favor of abortion—would not be affected by those private morals. His position draws on principles identical to those Fr. Hehir advocated previously.
1993	Begins serving on faculty of Harvard Divinity School and Harvard's Weatherhead Center while also serving as pastor at St. Paul's Church in Cambridge. Serves at HDS until 2001.
1999	Named head (Chair of the Executive Committee) of Harvard Divinity School after previous dean found with pornography on personal computer.
1999	April 19. Pro-abortion group, Catholics for a Free Choice, cites Fr. Hehir's earlier statements on contraception to support their position that Catholic hospitals should not be exempt from having to offer contraceptive coverage. "Father Bryan Hehir, a high-ranking official of the United States Catholic Conference at the time, noted in 1974 that the church could 'regard contraceptive practice as an issue of private morality that the church continues to teach for its members but not an issue of public morality on which it seeks to affect public policy'"
2001	June 13. Announcement made that Fr. Hehir will leave Harvard Divinity School at the end of 2001 to take position as President of Catholic Charities USA. As reported in the Boston Globe , then-Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Bernard Law, had "made it clear he was unhappy with Hehir being stationed at Harvard, a historically Unitarian school with a reputation for progressive theology." In this Harvard announcement of the change, Hehir is credited with "overseeing the establishment of newly-endowed professorships that will greatly enhance HDS's work in Buddhist studies, Islamic studies, and religion and international conflict."
2002	October 2. Fr. Hehir is featured along with Mary E. Hunt at a Regis College symposium, "Women, Church and Society: The Heart of the Matter" as part of a discussion series in response to the sexual abuse crisis. Fr. Hehir spoke on "The Consequences of the Crisis: Defining the Issues." In the talk, he refers to 20th century Catholicism teachings on sexuality as having been "a chronically afflicted area" and said that "dissent is an expected part of the theological tradition of which we are a part." Regis's report on the event says, "He ceded to Dr. Hunt discussion of any perception of the influence and role of women." Hunt is a Catholic feminist theologian who is Co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER), is an advocate for women priests, and is also a lesbian who adopted a daughter with her partner of 29 years.
2003	September 18. At a Boston College forum on the Catholic Church in the 21st century, Fr. Hehir publicly questioned Church doctrine on women priests. In response to a question on women priests Fr. Hehir said, "The ordination of women embraces doctrinal questions that have to be worked through in a Church that takes doctrine seriously." This view is contradicted by the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and by Pope John Paul II's, Apostolic Letter, "Ordinatio Sacerdotalis: Reserving Priestly Ordination to Men Alone."
	September 27. Fr. Hehir is appointed by Cardinal Sean O'Malley as President of Catholic Charities of Boston and Secretary of Social Services. Chairman of the Catholic Charities board at the time is banker, Neil Finnegan. Voice of the Faithful, a group formed to change the structure of the Catholic Church and (whose key strategist was labor and civil rights organizer Harvard Prof. Marshall Ganz), calls Fr. Hehir's appointment an "extraordinary coup for the Archdiocese of Boston."
2004	April 6. Boisi Center at Boston College—with Fr. Bryan Hehir on Advisory Board—sponsors talk by notorious gay marriage advocate, Fr. James Keenan on "Virtuous Sexual Ethics." This occurs in the midst of the statewide "gay marriage" battle where the Church actively opposed same-sex marriage.
2005	April 25. Fr. Hehir criticized U.S. bishops and priests who threatened denial of Communion to pro-abortion politicians, such as Sen. John Kerry, or their supporters. He also voiced concerns about the newly elected Pope. The Boston Globe reported on April 30, 2005 , "The four panelists hinted at or explicitly stated reservations about his enforcement of conservative orthodoxy when as Cardinal Ratzinger, he ran the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith."

	<p>July 13. Fr. Hehir-led search committee announces appointment of Edward Saunders as head of the Massachusetts Catholic Conference. Saunders had a history of donating personal funds to politicians who vehemently opposed the Catholic Church on abortion and gay marriage.</p>
	<p>October 22. It is revealed publicly that Catholic Charities of Boston had been aiding in adoptions of children by gay couples. Despite Vatican teachings that allowing homosexuals to adopt children is "gravely immoral," the social services agency of the Archdiocese of Boston has allowed 13 foster children to be adopted by same-sex couples in the past two decades. "If we could design the system ourselves, we would not participate in adoptions to gay couples, but we can't," said the Rev. J. Bryan Hehir. "We have to balance various goods."</p>
	<p>November. Catholic Charities of Boston--with Fr. Hehir as President and Peter Meade as Chair--announces plan to honor pro-abortion and pro-gay-marriage Mayor of Boston, Thomas Menino, at their annual holiday fund-raiser dinner in December. This honor expressly violates USCCB's own guidelines saying that politicians who oppose Church teachings should not be honored. After public uproar, Cardinal O'Malley pulls out from previous plans to attend event but does not stop the honoring of Menino.</p>
	<p>November 29. Fr. Hehir speaks at gay-friendly Paulist Center in Boston as part of adult education series that also featured gay activist Larry Kessler, whose AIDS Action Committee published a graphic guide to safe gay sex distributed to high school students earlier in the year. The Paulist Center participates in Boston's annual Gay Pride parade and teen-focused Boston Area Gay Lesbian Youth (BAGLY) events and had awarded their Isaac Hecker Award to Sr. Jeannine Gramick and Fr. Robert Nugent, who were banned by the Vatican from speaking on homosexuality as their views were contrary to Church teaching.</p>
2006	<p>March 2. Catholic Charities announces agency will exit the adoption business after Vatican rules adoptions to gay couples may not be brokered by a Catholic organization. Chair Peter Meade and six other board members quit Catholic Charities board in protest. Meade will later be appointed as co-chair of key commission to review archdiocesan parish closings.</p>
	<p>March 19. Bryan Hehir keynotes Social Justice Convocation #1, Sponsored by Catholic Campaign for Human Development (which was funding ACORN at the time), and including a talk by woman who organized a Boston area Catholic parish's participation in Boston's Gay Pride parade.</p>
	<p>June 6. Search committee led by Bryan Hehir's former Catholic Charities Board Chair, banker, Neil Finnegan, names James McDonough new Chancellor for Archdiocese of Boston.</p>
2007	<p>July 28. Fr. Hehir leaves role as President of Catholic Charities of Boston, appointing former student and spiritual directee, Tiziana Dearing to the role. The Boston Globe reports, "The former dean of Harvard Divinity School, cementing his role as one of the closest advisers to Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, is leaving his post as president of Catholic Charities of Boston so he can spend more time at the chancery." Dearing had previously contributed to the presidential campaign of pro-abortion candidate Sen. John Kerry, had criticized pro-lifers publicly, and had supported the work of union/ community organization and Voice of the Faithful strategist, Marshall Ganz.</p>
2008	<p>March 14. Caritas Christi announces new governance model as part of agreement with pro-abortion, pro-gay MA Attorney General Martha Coakley). Fr. Hehir named as Cardinal O'Malley's delegate to revamped Caritas Christi hospital board. Archdiocese of Boston involvement to be limited to "matters pertaining to Catholic identity, mission and the implementation of the religious and ethical directives of the USCCB." Fr. Hehir's title expanded to Secretary of Health and Social Services.</p>
	<p>April 4. Caritas Christi announces new President, cardiac surgeon, Ralph de la Torre. Search committee again included Fr. Hehir colleague and former Catholic Charities board chair Neil Finnegan. De la Torre came as a referral by Jack Connors.</p>
2009	<p>February 26. Partnership of Caritas Christi announced with CeliCare to provide healthcare services to low-income Massachusetts residents via Commonwealth Care program. Services need to include abortion referrals. Fr. Hehir has been Cardinal O'Malley's delegate to the board for nearly a year. In ensuing months, it is also revealed that the "Catholic" board members have donated \$58,000 to pro-abortion politicians over recent years. After pro-life Catholics complain about the abortion referrals required in the plan and the National Catholic Bioethics Center reviewed the arrangement, on June 27, Cardinal O'Malley instructed Caritas Christi to withdraw from its part ownership of CeliCare. However, the 6 Caritas Christi hospitals would remain in the CeliCare plan as providers of services, and under the plan, Caritas Christi is obliged to refer women for abortions. CeliCare lists 3 Planned Parenthood abortion locations in Massachusetts.</p>
	<p>October 17. Fr. Hehir keynotes Social Justice Convocation #2. Featured speakers include Catholic Relief Services (criticized for key staff members contributing to pro-abortion politicians and for promoting use of condoms), Tiziana Dearing (Catholic Charities of Boston, see July 28, 2007 above), and Sr. Teresa Rickard (RENEW International, a habit-less nun whose religious order is affiliated with the liberal Leadership Council of Women Religious and whose website links to gay rights organizations).</p>
	<p>October 21. USC Institute of Catholic Studies--where Fr. Hehir is board member--sponsors talk by long-time Catholic Church critic and advocate for women priests, Peter Seinsfels.</p>
2010	<p>March. Archdiocesan Chancellor James McDonough, wealthy power-broker and donor Jack Connors, and Fr. Hehir begin moves to push Archdiocesan Secretary of Development, Scot Landry, out of his position.</p>
	<p>April 8. Boston College's Boisi Center sponsors another speaking engagement by gay-marriage-advocate, Fr. James Keenan, talking on AIDS. Fr. Hehir remains on Advisory Board.</p>
	<p>April 30-May 1. Hehir is scheduled to keynote a "Living Eucharist" conference in the Diocese of St. Petersburg along with "gay priests" advocate, Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, O.P. (who has also urged an audience to read gay novels and watch gay movies such as Brokeback Mountain) and Jesuit Fr. J. Glenn Murray (who ordered changes to the liturgy and communion rites in the Diocese of Cleveland that were contrary to Vatican and USCCB direction).</p>