

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING JOHN O'BRIEN¹

5/30/64 – Ordination

6/22/64 Cousins letter to O'Brien appointing him Curate at Immaculate Conception Parish, effective July 1, 1964. (45086)

7/1/64 – Curate, Immaculate Conception Parish, Milwaukee, WI

9/7/65 Cousins letter to O'Brien appointing him part-time Instructor of Religion at St. John Antida High School in Milwaukee for the upcoming school year. (45087)

9/2/66 Cousins letter to O'Brien appointing him part-time Instructor of Religion at St. John Antida High School in Milwaukee for the upcoming school year. (45088)

4/23/70 O'Brien letter to Archbishop indicating he has been accepted for the summer program in theology at Oxford University. (19682)

4/7/71 Cousins letter to O'Brien appointing him temporary Associate Pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Fond du Lac, effective May 4, 1971. Personnel Board has informed Cousins that they intend to recommend in the near future that O'Brien be assigned as a full-time religion instructor at St. Mary's Springs High School. (45093)

5/4/71 - Temporary Associate Pastor, St. Patrick's Parish, Fond du Lac, WI

6/16/71 Cousins letter to O'Brien appointing him Faculty of St. Mary's Springs High School in Fond du Lac, effective June 22, 1971. (45424)

6/22/71 – Faculty, St. Mary's Springs High School, Fond du Lac, WI

6/20/75 Cousins letter to O'Brien approving his plans to pursue a Doctoral Degree in Education while continuing his work at the high school. (45096)

5/21/86 Neuman letter to O'Brien extending his term of office at St. Mary's Springs Academy for a period up to three years. (45415)

3/10/89 Trepanier letter to O'Brien extending his term of office at St. Mary Springs Academy in Fond du Lac for a period up to one year. (45414)

¹ This timeline was principally prepared by Jeff Anderson & Associates PA; Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C. provided limited corrections to certain entries and assisted with redactions of abuse survivor information that could potentially have identified individual abuse survivors.

6/7/89 Gross letter to O'Brien appointing him Temporary Administrator of St. Cloud, WI Parish in St. Cloud, until a new pastor is appointed. The appointment is effective immediately. (45493)

6/7/89 – Temporary Administrator, St. Cloud Parish, St. Cloud, WI

5/8/90 Gross letter to O'Brien appointing him Temporary Administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Sheboygan, effective May 8, 1990. (45494)

5/8/90 – Temporary Administrator, Immaculate Conception Parish, Sheboygan, WI

6/4/90 Vicar Log Entry. O'Brien asks the Board to make a recommendation about his application for chaplain to Kettle Moraine. (45491)

9/7/90 Weakland letter to O'Brien appointing him Pastor at Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in North Fond du Lac, effective September 25, 1990. (45503)

9/25/90 – Pastor, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in North Fond du Lac, WI

9/1/00 Vicar Log Entry No. 536. Sklba had an emergency meeting with O'Brien. O'Brien reported a compromising situation with a possible minor at Presentation rectory which had recently evolved into some Police investigation and possible charge. Sklba insisted on counseling as soon as possible. (45446)

9/6/00 Vicar Log Entry No. 542. Sklba called Fond du Lac to learn the proper jurisdiction and subsequently contacted the North Fond du Lac Chief of Police to report that he had just been made aware of the matter on September 1, 2000 and was eager to make official contact in order to offer assurance of the Archdiocese's full cooperation without in any way impeding the investigation. At the Chief of Police's suggestion, Sklba left a similar message with the special investigator. (45446)

9/14/00 Hornacek met with O'Brien and he admitted to a relationship with a 17 year old that occurred in 1999 at Blessed Virgin Mary Church (St. Mary's) Fond du Lac. (19966-69)

9/27/00 Statement of the Archdiocese indicating the Archdiocese confirmed the possibility of misconduct charges being filed against O'Brien. The Archdiocese takes allegations of misconduct seriously and has cooperated fully with authorities in the investigation. (45364)

9/27/00 Results of crisis team meeting regarding O'Brien. (45365)

9/29/00 O'Brien letter of resignation to Weakland, effective October 2, 2000. (19722)

10/2/00 – Resigned

10/6/00 Sklba letter to parishioners indicating the Archdiocese recently became aware of one incident of misconduct against O'Brien. O'Brien has resigned from the parish, effective October 2, 2000. (45362)

10/6/00 Vicar Log Entry No. 600. Sklba gave courtesy call to Bishop Banks because of the parishes close to Fond du Lac. (45447)

11/1/00 – Administrative Leave

11/13/00 Vicar Log Entry No. 991. As of November 1, 2000, O'Brien is on Administrative Leave and will receive no salary. (45448)

10/18/00 Weakland letter to O'Brien formally accepting his resignation as Pastor of Presentation Parish. (45532)

10/19/00 St. Louis Consultation Center letter to Hornacek confirming O'Brien's admission. (45322)

10/24/00 Criminal Complaint for fourth degree sexual assault filed against O'Brien. (19944-45)

Statement of the Archdiocese indicating charges were filed against O'Brien. (45360)

11/3/00 "Crisis Intervention Group" notes indicating follow-up strategies that might be needed in light of O'Brien's sentencing hearing and to provide a "buffer" before a meeting with parish leadership on pastor consultation. (45354-55)

11/7/00 O'Brien pled no contest to fourth degree sexual assault. O'Brien is on probation for 18 months and will undergo treatment at St. Louis Consultation Center. (19942)

Archdiocese media statement indicating there has been no evidence of any other incident involving O'Brien and misconduct with children or adolescents. (19727)

11/27/00 Hornacek letter to Saint Louis Consultation Center thanking them for the results and reports on O'Brien. Indicates attempt to obtain court order for O'Brien to return to St. Louis. (20068)

12/15/00 Vicar Log Entry No. 1051. O'Brien will return to St. Louis on December 18, 2000. (45449)

- 12/19/00 Weakland Precept prohibiting O'Brien from all contact with minors, to cease all public ministry, to avoid places of temptation in the area of sexual morality, to cease all pastoral counseling, and revoking the ability to hear confession. (19725)
- 1/29/01 Hornacek letter to O'Brien indicating he will receive a semi-monthly payment of \$1000. (45552)
- 4/5/01 Weakland Precept prohibiting O'Brien from all contact with minors, to cease all public ministry, to avoid places of temptation in the area of sexual morality, to cease all pastoral counseling, and revoking the ability to hear confession. (19742)
- Vicar Log Entry No. 267. O'Brien informed that precept issued by the Archbishop remains in effect throughout his treatment program. (45158)
- 5/9/01 Hornacek letter to St. Louis Consultation Center thanking them for the interim report on O'Brien and indicating he understands the materials are not to be made part of O'Brien's permanent record. (45564)
- 5/31/01 Police report states that individual alleges abuse by O'Brien starting in 1976. (19946-50). Individual was asked if he ever told anyone about the abuse before. He said that the first time he told anyone was sometime between 1989 and 1991 when he was a patient at a hospital. He told the counselor at that time. He told family members around the same time. Individual also advised the detective that he did speak with a Father at St. Joe's Church possibly a Father Heppe about this as well. He was not sure if it was Father Heppe but that was the name that came to him at the time. (19948)
- 8/6/01 Vicar Log Entry No. 608. Vicar calls O'Brien to confirm that Vicar would attend O'Brien's exit interview at St. Louis. O'Brien's questions regarding future assignment and residence will be addressed after review of his final report. (45450)
- 8/20/01 Vicar Log Entry No. 627. St. Louis Consultation Center indicates O'Brien is not a predator and should be given an assignment, but not as pastor or administrator. O'Brien will continue to see a therapist in Milwaukee, be subject to monitoring, and will work with a spiritual director and priests support group. (45451)
- 9/13/01 Vicar Log Entry No. 705. O'Brien's probation officer advises O'Brien not return to ministry because two more individuals came forward stating that O'Brien abused them 20 years ago. One individual gave statement directly to policy. The second gave statement directly to O'Brien's probation officer who gave a statement to police. (45451)
- 9/14/01 Hornacek letter to Saint Louis Consultation Center thanking him for the final report on O'Brien. Indicates a psychotherapist will work with O'Brien when he returns to the Milwaukee area. When speaking with O'Brien earlier in the week,

Hornacek learned that O'Brien's probation officer is asking O'Brien to take a lie detector test in connection with two other reports of abuse. Hornacek is discouraged with the latest report and questions the advisability of O'Brien's return to parochial ministry. (20045)

- 12/25/01 Weakland Precept prohibiting O'Brien from all contact with minors, to cease all public ministry, to avoid places of temptation in the area of sexual morality, to cease all pastoral counseling, and revoking the ability to hear confession. (19976)
- 12/27/01 Vicar Log Entry No. 924. O'Brien in a weekly therapy group mandated by the State. (45452)
- 1/3/02 Weakland letter to O'Brien indicating the Archdiocese will have to be careful with how to proceed with some unresolved issues and that Hornacek will discuss the continuation of restrictions on ministry. (19731)
- 3/18/02 Weakland Precept prohibiting O'Brien from all contact with minors, to cease all public ministry, to avoid places of temptation in the area of sexual morality, to cease all pastoral counseling, and revoking the ability to hear confession. (19977)
- Vicar Log Entry No. 148. Sklba received telephone call from someone outraged to learn that O'Brien celebrated St. Patrick's Day Mass at the Inn in Plymouth with a marquee publicly announcing the fact. Sklba could not find any trace of permission given by the Vicar and was surprised upon learned that O'Brien was seen vested for Mass, talking with people out on the sidewalk of the establishment on Sunday morning. (45453)
- 4/1/02 Clergy Personnel Action Notice indicates O'Brien is not assigned. (45593)
- 4/5/02 Hornacek letter to O'Brien urging him to participate in a weekly support group and to meet with a psychologist. Also enclosing a copy of the Precept. (45587)
- 4/5/02 Vicar Log Entry No. 271. O'Brien seen frequenting a coffee shop on Marian College campus; a nun raised concern about the presence of 18-22 year old men. (45453)
- 4/12/02 Hornacek letter to O'Brien enclosing Precept that he is to cease all public ministry and indicating that because of today's climate, he is not optimistic about O'Brien's return to public ministry. (45588)
- 6/8/02 Council Chairman of Presentation Parish e-mail to Hornacek indicating the parishioners expected a letter from O'Brien to explain his sudden departure or a way to put closure to the issues at hand. (45203)

- 7/22/02 Sklba Precept prohibiting O'Brien from all contact with minors, to cease all public ministry, to avoid places of temptation in the area of sexual morality, and to cease all pastoral counseling. (19897)
- 8/9/02 Hornacek letter to O'Brien enclosing Precept and indicating a change to the last paragraph that the restrictions will continue until notice of their revocation (previous precepts were typically drawn up for a three-month period). (45465)
- 11/12/02 Vicar Log Entry No. 1008. A promissory note will be drawn up holding O'Brien accountable for the \$35,000 he owes to the parish for misappropriating funds. (45454)
- 2/3/03 Dolan letter to O'Brien confirming that the Precept is still in place. (19743)
- 4/16/03 Vicar Log Entry No. 260. O'Brien is informed that the restrictions of not wearing the Roman collar or presenting himself as a priest are new. His case will be sent to the CDF in Rome. (19985)
- 5/12/03 Hornacek letter to O'Brien offering options because he will not serve as a priest again. He can seek voluntary laicization for \$20,000 (\$10,000 when the petition is submitted and \$10,000 when the definitive response is received), otherwise the Archbishop will submit his case to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. (20025-26)
- 6/12/03 O'Brien letter to Hornacek submitting his request for laicization. (45192)
- 7/1/03 – Unassignable (45180)
- 8/7/03 O'Brien letter to Pope John Paul II sending his resignation from ministry. (19926)
- 2003 Report of explicit sexual contact by O'Brien of 17 year old in 1978. (39821-22)
- 9/18/03 Hornacek letter to O'Brien indicating he can expect the promised check for \$10,000 as soon as his letter has been sent to Rome. (45179)
- 9/22/03 Cusack letter to McCann forwarding an intake report involving O'Brien. (45143)
- 9/23/03 Dolan letter to Cardinal Ratzinger stating that O'Brien was criminally convicted of sexually molesting a 17 year old boy and that another accusation of sexual misconduct recently came to the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese is turning that information over to state officials. Asks that O'Brien be dispensed from all obligations of the priesthood. (19924-25)
- 10/1/03 – In Process of Laicization (45178)
- 10/6/03 Archdiocese of Milwaukee Check Requisition for \$10,000 to O'Brien. (45168)

- 11/14/03 Schweih's letter to O'Brien discussing the check he received for \$10,000 as part of his laicization and reimbursement for his health insurance premium. (45170-71)
- 1/1/04 Dolan letter to [redacted] indicating dispute resolution services will be available mid-January, Catholic Charities is offering a support group, financial assistance for psychotherapy remains available, and he continues to meet with survivors. (37220-21)
- 2/19/04 Reinke letter to [redacted] indicating the findings of the John Jay Study will soon be released. (37218-19)
- 2004 Report of explicit sexual contact by O'Brien of 11-12 year old in 1967-1968. (39821-22)
- 6/16/04 Cusack letter to McCann (District Attorney) enclosing intake report regarding abuse involving O'Brien. Individual in intake report is the same individual referenced in the entry above. (57437)
- 7/8/04 Dolan letter to [redacted] indicating that he has authorized the release of the names of priests who are now or would have been restricted from all priestly ministries. (32313)
- 11/19/04 Dolan letter to Ratzinger enclosing additional information regarding O'Brien. In September 2003 Dolan reported to Ratzinger that in 2000 O'Brien plead no contest to criminal charges as was convicted of fourth degree sexual assault as a result of O'Brien's abusing a 17-year old boy. Since Dolan's report in 2003 two separate individuals have now come forward with reports of abuse involving O'Brien. The Archdiocese reported both of these allegations to civil authorities. (39834-35)
- 11/29/04 Connell letter to Rev. Gabriel Montalvo (Apostolic Nuncio to the United States) enclosing documents for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Includes police reports, newspaper articles, and a list of allegations against O'Brien. (39836)
- 3/31/05 Archdiocese of Milwaukee Clergy Advocacy and Monitoring Program Protocols indicating restrictions imposed on O'Brien, including not identifying himself as a priest or deacon. (19759-61)
- 8/12/05 Agreement and Mutual Release between [redacted] and the Archdiocese for \$50,000, \$14,000 for three years (\$42,000 total) in consideration of the special employment and disabilities attributed to O'Brien, and therapy expenses. (56559-61)

- 9/6/05 Dolan letter to Archbishop Amato at the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith reminding them that O'Brien was criminally convicted, another individual came forward since Dolan's previous letter, and O'Brien has been observed on a number of occasions in the local library with adolescent boys. Indicates efforts at monitoring O'Brien are not successful. Requests that the laicization be expedited. (19938-39)
- 10/29/05 Agreement and Mutual Release between [redacted] and the Archdiocese for \$30,000 for outstanding child support payments and an account for \$25,000 for therapy. (57114-16)
- 1/4/06 Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith letter to Dolan stating that they are positively disposed towards Dolan's request, but it cannot be presented to the Holy Father until there is "at least an admission of guilt and a sincere expression of remorse." Requests that Dolan "invite the Rev. O'Brien to write a petition which will contain the above- mentioned elements." (19899)
- 8/29/06 O'Brien letter to Pope Benedict asking him to accept his resignation and stating that he will not be able to exercise priestly ministry because of his history and misdemeanor criminal conviction for sexual abuse of a minor. (39825)
- 2007 Report of forced sexual contact with an animal by O'Brien of 9-10 year old in 1967-1968. (39821-22)
- 5/6/08 Support and Safety Plan for O'Brien indicating he will follow certain requirements designed to assist him in living in a life of holiness. (39820)
- 4/3/09 Unofficial Translation of the Laicization Rescript from Pope Benedict to O'Brien. (39818-19)
- 12/3/09 Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith letter to ListECKi stating that it has now come to a resolution and requesting \$500 to support its work. (39879)
- Undated Chronology of accusations at O'Brien's assignments. (29842)