

Fr. Finian McDonald, OSB Timeline

- December 23, 1928 Born, Robert Anthony McDonald
- June 2, 1962 Ordained Priest by Bishop Peter Bartholome in St. Cloud (OSB MCDONALD_00037)
- Summer 1962/63 – Holy Family Mission, Cloquet MN if Fr Jude Koll OSB (Diocese of Duluth)
- 1962-1963 – Benet Hall Prefect, Director Special Events Saint John’s University
- 1963-1967 – Dean of Men, V.P. Student Affairs, St. John’s University
- 1967 – St. John’s Counseling Center – University and Prep School
- 1972-1974 Advanced Certificate, Psychiatric Counseling Georgetown University, Graduate work University of Minnesota and Saint Louis University. Special Advisor to Freshman. (OSB MCDONALD_00058) “Finian administers the MMPI to students by choice rather than coercion” (OSB MCDONALD_00059)
- 1972 Receives Masters of Counseling/Psychology from Boston College
- 1974-1975 McDonald sexually abuses St. John’s University Freshman multiple times after the student went to him for counseling for a “serious personal crisis.” (OSB MCDONALD_00274)**
- June 22, 1980 Admitted to Hazelden for alcohol treatment. Intake notes say that Finian wanted to focus on his sexuality rather than alcoholism. (OSB MCDONALD_00110, 00111)
- May, 1981 Abbot Theisen allows Fr. Finian to take a sabbatical for the 1982-83 school year. (OSB MCDONALD_00113-00114, 00123)
- August 82 – July 83 Sabbatical in Japan and Israel
- 1984-1988 – Director of Academic Advising, St. John’s University
- September 1988 – St. Anselm’s Priory, Tokyo, Japan
- August 3, 1992 Man reports to Abbot Theisen that he was abused by Finian McDonald who he went for counseling as a freshman at St. John’s University in 1974-75. (OSB MCDONALD_00274) Theisen responds to the man’s letter writing, “It was with sadness and regret that I received your revelation about Father Finian’s *sexual relationship with you* during your period of studies at Saint John’s in the 1970s.” (OSB MCDONALD_00277)
- Aug 31- Sep 8, 1992 Jay T. McNamara, PhD performs psychological evaluation on Finian. In his cover letter sending the report to Abbot Jerome, McNamara writes, “I hate to be the bearer of such bleak news.” Finian admitted to abusing approximately 15 students while a counselor and priest at St. John’s University before 1980, and said he was **confronted by monks and**

priests about his sexual contact with students he was counseling at least three times. He also describes sexual contact with his peers during his years in the clericate. McNamara opined that Finian showed little concern for any harm he may have caused to the students he abused, but was very concerned how “other incidents” from his past coming to light would affect him and St. John’s. McNamara’s impression is that Finian has limited ability to control his own impulses, sexually or otherwise. Has a history of stealing, and exploiting. (OSB MCDONALD_00284-00294)

October 1992 Finian is admitted to St. Luke Institute in Suitland, Maryland for treatment of compulsive sexual behavior. He admits to sexual contact with 28-30 students at St. John’s from 1962 to 1980 when he was sent for alcohol treatment. Finian admits he was counseling some of the students. He also admitted to a “last fling” before coming to St. Luke’s. His 1980 alcohol treatment program included aftercare for sexuality at the University of Minnesota. Finian is diagnosed with a compulsive sexuality disorder, impulse control disorder, and personality disorder. (OSB MCDONALD_00297, 00302- 00310, 00324-00325)

February 1993 St. Luke’s informs Abbot Timothy Kelly that Finian’s treatment is progressing very slowly. (OSB MCDONALD_00322)

May 1993 Finian writes in his aftercare contract that he has a long history of being dishonest and manipulative, and that he should make his superiors aware that he is skilled in those areas. (OSB MCDONALD_00328)

1993 Personnel Liaison, St. John’s

6/15/93 St. John’s sued by man who was abused by Finian in the late 1970s, and who reported his abuse to St. John’s in August 1992. (OSB MCDONALD_00333)

1/5/95 St. Luke’s continuing care update to St. John’s notes two ongoing concerns, including Finian’s “obsession” with a young cleric, and obsessive focus on his addictive tendencies. (OSB MCDONALD_00357)

6/17-21/96 Attends continuing care workshop at St. Luke Institute
In Finian’s re-entry workshop plan he writes that to maintain his recovery he must be aware of other monks at St. John’s who are a ‘threat to his sobriety’ with regard to his new boundaries and restrictions. (OSB MCDONALD_00384-00387, 00391-00394)

February 1997 Finian admits to St. John’s prior that he still does not trust himself as far as his sexual addiction goes. (OSB MCDONALD_00431-00433)

12/19-23/97 Attends continuing care workshop at St. Luke Institute. He tells his support group he relapsed into his “old ways” while staying in the Bahamas recently. (OSB MCDONALD_00437-00439)

March 1998 Abbot Kelly allows Finian to return to the Bahamas to “assess the impact of [his] previous slips on that island.” (OSB MCDONALD_00443)

1998-1999 Saint Augustine’s Monastery Nassau Bahamas

1999 Saint Anselm Monastery Tokyo Japan

8/2/1999 Continuing Care St. Luke’s August 2-6. Finian reports gambling in Bermuda and Tokyo, stealing, sex in Bangkok and behaving inappropriately with a junior monk at Saint John’s which he says he reported to support group, spiritual director and to Abbot Timothy Kelly. Letters from Fr. Ward and Skudlarek re immature behavior. (OSB McDonald 00470-00472)

2002 Named as perp in civil lawsuit

10/21/2002 Abbot learns of Finian’s abuse of another Victim when Victim was a 17-year-old college freshman. (OSB MCDONALD_00482)

2/21/2004 Finian tells Abbot Klassen he won’t authorize the release of his file to the St. John’s Review Board. This begins a years-long dispute. (OSB MCDONALD_00486)

3/26/2004 Abbot Klassen to Finian. Not all of file shared with Review Board who have signed confidentiality orders. Facing three false claims right now. (OSB McDonald 00487-00488)

4/29/2004 Victim email to Abbot Klassen re sexual abuse by Finian and Allen Tarlton. (OSB MCDONALD_00492-00494)

5/1/2004 Finian petitioned American Casinese Federation President Timothy Kelly OSB for review of supervision. Father Jonathan Licari OSB represents Abbot Klassen of St. John’s and Sister Lynn McKenzie OSB represents Finian. (OSB MCDONALD_00495)

11/22/2004 Conciliation review mediated by David Fitzgerald. (OSB MCDONALD_00513-00514)

3/7/2006 Holy See orders all restrictions on Finian be removed. (OSB MCDONALD_00526-00532)

1/19/2009 Dispute between Finian and Abbot Klassen over Finian’s restrictions is mediated at St. John’s. Finian requests “to be able to publically celebrate the Eucharist **when he is away from St. John’s and the greater Minneapolis St Paul area and there is no possibility of notoriety...**” Abbot John (OSB MCDONALD_00602)

5/9/2009 Finian attends San Anselmo Renewal program in Rome, Jerusalem, Istanbul. (OSB MCDONALD_00611- 00620)

11/22/2010 Email to Abbot Klassen, Finian taking a Dec 6-14 New York vacation. (OSB MCDONALD_00886)

11/24/2010 Finian's advocate Sister Lynn McKenzie OSB JCL writes Abbot Klassen notifying him she is advising Finian not to sign Safety Plan contract. (OSB MCDONALD_00887)

7/22/2011 Klassen letter to Finian: There have been two reported incidents of inappropriate contact with students in the Great Hall. The first was in 2009, and the Abbot intervened. McDonald was harassing a student and asking questions about the students plans to have sex with his girlfriend. Then there is another report in 2011. (OSB MCDONALD_00652-00654)

1/23/2012 Settlement with **Survivor** for sexual abuse at St. John's University by Finian 1966-1970. (OSB MCDONALD_00665 - 00667)

2/13/2012 Meeting re another victim. This victim was also abused by Finian while a St. John's University student. (OSB MCDONALD_00671)

July 2012 Klassen proposal to send Finian to special facility. (OSB McDonald 000682) Klassen tells Monks Finian was sexually inappropriate with an employee, and is a high risk for reoffending. He's sending Finian to the Paraclete facility Dittmer, MO. (OSB MCDONALD_00690)

8/3/2012 Initial Psychological evaluation for history of sexual abuse of minors and psychotropic medication use at Dittmer facility of the Servants of the Paraclete. 200 sexual partners during priesthood. McDonald admits to sex with a boy of 13 or 14 in Thailand. Minimizes his sexual abuse of minors believing they were "willing participates." One of his Axis I Diagnoses is "sexual abuse of a minor." It is noted as an interesting case because despite past treatment McDonald appears to have no ability to prevent himself from reoffending. (OSB MCDONALD_00704-00714)

July 2013 Dittmer residents travel to Servants facility at Jemez Springs for R&R. Abbot Klassen gives permission. (OSB MCDONALD_00784-00785)

12/9/2013 Placed on Abbey's list of monks likely to have offended against children.

July 2014 St. John's reduces monthly payments to McDonald to \$45 a month spending money so that he can stay on Missouri's Medicaid program while he's at Servants of the Paraclete. St. John's (OSB MCDONALD_00851, 00861, 00852)

2015 Finian returns to Saint John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN.