

MICHAEL KUISLE – TIMELINE



6/25/16 Born

6/2/40 – Ordained

1940 – Assistant, St. Thomas Pro-Cathedral, Winona (MK000002)

1943- Associate, St. Francis, Rochester (MK000002)

6/22/47 – Pastor, Rushford, Houston & Ridgeway (MK000002)

1954- Pastor, St. Francis de Sales Church, Claremont (MK000002)

7/26/56- Pastor, St. Peter’s Church, Hokah (MK000002)

6/24/65- Pastor, Crucifixion, La Crescent (MK000002)

2/27/67 Letter from the Bishop of Winona to Kuisle saying that the Bishop has heard rumors that Kuisle has been drinking and reminds him that he cannot use liquor in any form, shape, or quantity. The Bishop heard that Kuisle was drunk in church and in the school. “I trust you will understand that you are actually an alcoholic...” Asks that Kuisle call the chancery to discuss the matter so they can try to overcome the scandal that comes with being an alcoholic. (MK000157-000158)

3/8/67 Letter from Kuisle to Bishop Fitzgerald. Kuisle saw a doctor who prescribed him mild tranquilizers, which Kuisle has been taking. He asked for forgiveness at mass. He hopes none of the rumors or facts leaked to his family and ruined the image he has with his nephews and nieces. (MK000160-000161)

8/4/69 Letter from the Bishop appointing Kuisle Administrator of Precious Blood parish. (MK000170)

8/7/69 – Administrator, Precious Blood

1970 – Pastor, Stewartville

6/30/70 Letter from Kuisle to Bishop Watters explaining his relationship with a young woman. Kuisle says he has spent many hours in conversation with her

and has taken her out to dinner a number of times. He's known the girl since she was a freshman in high school 9 years ago. She recently traveled with him to Hawaii to visit his nephew for one week, but she stayed in a hotel while he stayed in the R and R. People have seen her car at Kuisle's house, which Kuisle explains has happened on occasion when she left her car there and rode with friends or she was working late. Mentions he has 7 brothers and sisters and almost 70 nephews and nieces. (MK000177-000179)

- 7/2/70** Letter from Bishop Watters to Kuisle responding to Kuisle's letter. **"..even with the best intentions things can go wrong, situations become complicated, and tensions build up."** There are factions in the parish, considering the conclusions that many people in La Crescent have come to regarding his relationship with the woman the only solution is a change in assignment. (MK000180)
- 7/28/70 Letter from the woman mentioned in the letters above saying there was never anything between her and Kuisle. (MK000026)
- 5/2/71** Letter from Bishop Watters to Kuisle- **"After an accurate and careful inquiry, I hereby suspend you from all the acts of your present office as pastor of Saint Bernard Parish, Stewartville... for grave reasons known to me, for six months from this day and date."** (MK000189)
- 5/2/71** Letter from Bishop Waters to Kuisle asking Kuisle to resign. He has time and again urged Kuisle to take a leave of absence or a long vacation. Watters will begin the canonical process and insists that Kuisle get the help he needs. **"The very grave reasons prompting this decision are well known to me"** (MK000191)
- 5/3/71 Letter from parishioner to Bishop Watters asking that Kuisle not come back to St. Bernard's in Stewartville and saying he never should have come in the first place. Kuisle was very drunk when he first came and they never knew whether he would say mass drunk or sober. (MK000193-000194)
- 5/31/71 Letter from Bishop Watters to Kuisle. The Diocese is still paying Kuisle even after he was asked to resign for grave reasons. (MK000200)
- Undated Letter from Kuisle to Bishop Watters. "I have always been of holy purity- but you do not trust or believe..." Also says he cannot and will not willingly resign from St. Bernard's. (MK000132-000133)
- Undated Letter from unknown to Bishop Fitzgerald saying there is no reason to reveal the identity of the children who witnessed the un-christian acts of stupidity and hate committed by (redacted). Author demands a public apology. (MK000141)
- Undated Copy of a sermon Kuisle gave apologizing for anything he did to tarnish the parishioners' image of the priesthood. Does not say what he did. "I solemnly

pledge that such a thing will never happen again...” He has sought help from Bishop Fitzgerald and medical authorities. (MK000136-000137)

8/14/71 Letter from Kuisle resigning from St. Bernard. (MK000203)

8/14/71 – Resigned

12/21/71 – Died

1/1/99 Letter from unknown to Fr. Mahon thanking him for paying for her therapeutic massages and asking about settlement money for victims of sexual abuse by Fr. Kuisle. (MK000051)

3/11/99 Letter from unknown to Bishop Harrington reporting sexual abuse by Kuisle when she was in high school. Dates and place of abuse are redacted. She is reporting because she recently heard from a diocesan official that there were no reports of abuse by Kuisle. She says it was common knowledge that Kuisle struggled with alcohol abuse and inappropriate sexual behaviors. He lived with one of her high school classmates. She says that Kuisle was attentive, engaging and affirming of girls who struggled with self-esteem, such as herself. She can name 5 other girls in her high school class who were abused by him. Willing to come forward if anyone else who was abused by Kuisle needs support. (MK000027-000028)

3/30/99 Response letter from Bishop Harrington to unknown apologizing for Kuisle’s abuse and saying after reviewing Kuisle’s file he found no accusations against Kuisle. He requests permission from her to talk to the diocesan representatives on sexual abuse issues and until he hears from her again he can’t do anything else. (MK000029-000030)

5/18/99 Jane Doe v. Diocese of Winona, Church of the Crucifixion, et al. Complaint alleging abuse by Kuisle in 1965-1967. (MK000007-000017)

5/28/02 Letter from sexual abuse survivor who wrote the Bishop 3/11/99 to the Bishop asking that the diocese continue to pay for massage for another survivor who was abused by Kuisle, the one who filed as Jane Doe. She did not receive compensation because of an expired statute of limitations. (MK000055)

7/7/05 Memo from PJ Thompson to Fr. Michael Hoepfner, Vicar General, outlining therapy for a survivor of sexual abuse by Kuisle. Notes that the diocese learned of the accusation against Kuisle in 1993, which is different than what the Bishop wrote in 1999, that there were no previous accusations against Kuisle. (MK000032)