

ROBERT TAYLOR- TIMELINE



7/18/56 Letter from Taylor to Bishop Fitzgerald- the doctor told him he is suffering from nervous exhaustion. “Because of the distance it is difficult to always express precisely all the aspects of the problem...” He is to go on vacation in Switzerland for 3 weeks. (RT000222-223)

12/16/56 – Ordained

8/13/57 - Assistant, St. John’s Church, Rochester

8/30/60 – Assistant, St. Stanislaus, Winona and Instructor, Cotter High School, Winona (RT000072)

6/26/61 – Faculty Member, Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, St. Mary’s College, Winona (RT000456)

11/1/61 -Chaplain for Christian Brothers at La Salle Hall

9/1/62- Graduate studies in Greek, Latin at Catholic University (RT000077)

1/64 Taylor returned to teaching at St. Mary’s College from Catholic University. (RT 000088-89)

10/2/67 Letter from Fitzgerald to Taylor re: Taylor’s request for an appointment to discuss “problems and programs at the college and seminary.” (RT000091)

6/6/68 Letter from Fitzgerald to Taylor permitting Taylor to reside in St. Mary’s College dormitory – instead of seminary - and serve as chaplain for Sisters of Guadalupe at Cotter Hall. (RT000452)

6/6/68 - Chaplain for Sisters of Guadalupe, Cotter Hall

10/22/69 – Administrator, Holy Cross Parish, Dakota, MN (RT000468)

8/20/70 – Pastor, Holy Cross, Dakota; Precious Blood, LaMoille, MN (RT000097)

7/28/82 Letter from Watters to Taylor, appointing him pastor of St. Pius X Church, Rochester, effective 8/18/82. (RT000444-445)

8/18/82 – Pastor, St. Pius X Church, Rochester, MN

2/22/84 Letter from Watters to Father Syl Brown, pastor of Pax Christi Church in Rochester, enclosing letter to Taylor, saying that letter speaks for itself (the letter is not included in these records or referenced in the privilege log). Watters thanked Brown for improving communications with St. Pius X council. (RT000116)

10/4/84 – Pastor, St. Mary’s Parish, Madelia, MN (RT000117)

10/11/84 Letter from parishioner to Watters re: Watters’ 5/21/84 letter (not included with file) – After reading letter appears **Watters was “not interested in helping the victims of Taylor’s inappropriate sexual behavior that I have told you about.” He/She is aware others told Watters about Taylor’s inappropriate sexual behavior toward men, “and you also choose to disregard them.” “Now Taylor has been reassigned to a third parish in as many years with your apparent support. It angers the people of [redacted] “to know that as bishop you knowingly sent a sex offender to our parish and that you now send him to another parish to start over breaking relationships and ruining lives at will.”** The author asked Watters to save the people of Madelia from the same fate as the people of [redacted] and the people of St. Mary’s. (note at bottom says unanswered as of 12/27/84, re-sent certified mail 12/28/84) (RT000227)

06/05/85- Pastor, Holy Family, Lake Crystal; Pastor, St. Mary’s, Madelia (RT000123)

07/22/85 Letter from Watters to Taylor, appointing him pastor at St. Katherine church in Truman, effective 8/1/85, in addition to St. Mary’s and Holy Family assignments. Referred to priest [name redacted] going to treatment, living in sobriety, and then accepting pastoral assignment, “but the time comes when parishioners’ rights also have to be considered.” (RT000124)

8/1/85- Pastor, St. Katherine, Truman, MN; Pastor, Holy Family, Lake Crystal; Pastor, St. Mary’s, Madelia

2/9/87 Letter from parishioner to priest [name not listed] about a problem being ignored by the bishop- he moved Taylor to an unsuspecting parish each time he was caught. **Several parishioners heard Taylor was moved to unsuspecting parish for same reason, and something needs to be done about it. He/she feels that writing to the bishop was futile given his handling of the situations in the press. (RT000228-229)**

- 4/11/88 Letter to Bishop Vlazny [unlisted author] enclosing copy of 10/11/84 letter sent to Watters (see RT000227), **“waiting for an indication that it might be taken seriously this time – from the victim’s point of view.” Never believed victim’s plight seriously considered as people covered their legal, financial extremities.** Four years have passed, damage was done. (RT000232)
- 4/22/88 Letter from Bishop Vlazny in response to writer of 4/11/88 letter. Vlazny not aware of the 1984 letter, would like opportunity to pursue with Taylor and Watters, would like writer’s approval to use the letters as basis for discussions with them. (RT000235)
- 4/23/88 Letter to Bishop Vlazny from writer of 4/11/88 letter. Watters has set of correspondence from him and others involved on the matter. Archbishop Roach should have a complete set as well. Writer sent 2 complete sets to Rome, delivered another to Father Hargesheimer at St. Pius X. Perspective of others, including Father Al Gotmer and Sister Joan Blank, could add much to church’s ability to respond to these and future problems. (RT000502)
- 12/21/88 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to a man who lived at parish house at church in Madelia and shared concerns with Sister Louise regarding his time there with Taylor. Vlazny wanted to discuss “what it was that troubled you at your time in the parish house.” (RT000505)
- 7/17/89 Memo from Bishop Vlazny to Taylor file. Met with Taylor 6/28, reviewed transfer from St. Pius to Madelia 5 years ago, **discussed troubles currently besetting him in Madelia.** Parishioners have heard rumors about his transfer 5 years ago and also **“some questions have arisen about appropriate behaviors within the rectory at present.” Taylor insisted he met with [name redacted] in 1984. Vlazny learned he had one appointment but report never sent to Watters about it. Vlazny asked him to go to [name redacted] for a psychological evaluation. Depending upon the evaluation report, Taylor may return to [name redacted] for consultation. “Concerns about homosexual companions in his life ... make this situation problematic. Bob may need help.”** (RT000253)
- 9/21/89 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Rev. Lechner, Villa Louis Martin, Jemez Springs, NM, referring Taylor for care there. Notes that Vlazny has dealt with several complaints about Taylor since Vlazny’s arrival in 1987. For instance, huge controversy over Taylor’s management of Priests’ Retirement Fund; Taylor assigned to 3 parishes for more than 4 years; He talked down to parishioners, used vulgar language in presence of youngsters. **“A cloud of sexual innuendo seems to follow him in recent years.”** Parishioners in present church curious about Taylor’s “untimely transfer into their midst from a large parish in Rochester. **Truthfully, my predecessor transferred him to remove him from a problematic situation where his associate pastor, who has subsequently left the priesthood, was accusing him of inappropriate homosexual involvements**

with young men in the rectory.” Past year, member of Taylor’s staff reported that **young seminarian lived with Taylor 6 weeks**, left because sensed Taylor might act inappropriately with him. Taylor says young man homosexual, denies inappropriate behavior. Taylor denies being homosexual. **“But there certainly seems to be a concern about boundaries for him with respect to relationships.”**
(RT000259-261)

9/22/89 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Taylor: Report to Jemez Springs 10/16/89. Free of responsibilities at the three parishes after 10/15/89. (RT000513)

11/28/89 Letter from Bishop Vlazny responding to parishioner’s letter re: problems at St. Mary’s. Taylor’s leave fully in accord with diocesan policy, has very little, if anything, to do with St. Mary’s problems. (RT000288)

2/5/90 Letter from Mahon to Taylor re: diocese responsibility for salary, etc., when “a priest is involved in any kind of treatment.” (RT000138)

8/16/90 – Pastor, St. Leo’s Church, Pipestone, MN; Pastor, St. Martin’s Church, Woodstock, MN (RT000142)

11/21/90 Memo from Bishop Vlazny to Taylor file. Vlazny met with [name redacted] 11/17/90 and learned of complaints about Taylor’s personal behavior, inappropriate remarks, casualness in general area of sexuality at St. Leo’s and St. Martin’s. (RT000305-306)

12/10/90 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to person he met 11/17/90. Taylor’s issues “are problematic, long-standing and need his continuing attention.” (RT000310)

5/16/91 Letter from parishioner to Bishop Vlazny re: their 5/6/91 meeting. Lists several complaints about Taylor. Mentions Taylor possibility homosexual, the Diocese knew of accusations of his sexual behavior. Taylor did not deny when asked about accusations of his sexual behavior, Taylor said a man visiting there was his nephew, that was a lie; writer was told the man was son of one of Taylor’s old secretaries. (RT000327-329)

6/13/91 Letter from (name redacted) to Bishop Vlazny. “Father Taylor does not think the accusation of sexual misconduct has affected his ministry. **Recommended that “since Fr. Taylor can go no farther west in the diocese, you recycle him back to Winona where you can meet with him on a more regular basis**, truly get to know him and insist he go for counseling as a regular routine to work out his personal problems which are affecting his ministry.” **(RT000338-341)**

6/24/91 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to 6/13/91 letter writer. Writer touched on sensitive issues, wants to pursue them, wants to “approach the parents of the youngsters with whom you spoke.” (RT000343)

- October 1991 Letter from parishioner to Vlazny- wrote Vlazny previously about Taylor. Taylor does not tell the truth. **“How have you allowed him to come to this Parish, when you know he has problems, endangering our children.** He made a mess at Rochester and Madelia, so you sent him way across the state figuring we wouldn’t find out about him.” (RT000481-488)
- October 1991 Letter from parishioner to Archbishop Roach, with copy of letter sent to Vlazny re: Taylor’s behavior rude, abusive, arbitrary. He is drawing swastikas at meetings and is divisive. **A Sister informed someone that Taylor was accused of sexual misconduct while teaching at Winona seminary, got involved with young men.** Writer believed Taylor taken out of seminary because of it, went to church in Rochester, made a mess there, **went to Madelia – must have been sexual misbehavior there because Taylor sent to New Mexico for treatment for 6 months.** Taylor asked about sexual misconduct at church meeting, didn’t deny it. **May have abused little girl at parish rectory. Teen age boys hired to help after janitor left, so Sister warned the boys’ parents.** (RT000476-480)
- 11/4/91 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Taylor. Vlazny unable to attend confirmations at St. Martin’s and St. Leo’s - **“I was pleased to delegate you to do the Confirming in my absence.”** (RT000145)
- 5/6/92 Memo from Bishop Vlazny to Taylor file: **Call received from corrections officer in Pipestone. There has been a report in Pipestone of “misbehavior of Father Taylor in his dealings with children.”** Caller found no substance to rumor. Vlazny told him similar report circulated previous summer, that Taylor in treatment while in Madelia but returned from Jemez Springs **“with a recommendation that he continue his priestly ministry and that there were no issues to impede such pastoral work.”** (RT000349)
- 5/12/93 Memo from Mahon to Bishop Vlazy. There are rumors from St. Leo’s council members about **Taylor making inappropriate sexual advances on children.** One parishioner reported that Taylor took her young girl to rectory to give her candy without asking parents’ permission; parents couldn’t find the girl, found her in rectory. **Taylor made “sexual passes” at other children.** Vlazny handwritten note at bottom states he called Taylor regarding allegations; Taylor denied inappropriate contact with children. Vlazny would investigate further if the person who reported him supplied specific information. (RT000374)
- 5/21/93 Memo from Mahon to Bishop Vlazny. The janitor found a note on rectory door from person who had been living at the Pipestone rectory- **“I no longer want to be your lover – I have found a girlfriend.”** (RT000375)
- 5/27/93 Memo from Mahon to Bishop Vlazny-Taylor admitted the note’s existence and said **he planned to continue to allow (name redacted) to live at the rectory.** (RT000376)

- 5/4/94 Memo from McGrath to Mahon- Taylor owned an apartment complex in Sioux Falls, renters were complaining about him. There were strange men living in the basement and Taylor was entering apartments without permission. Two men moved after they came home, opened the door, and found Taylor at the door naked. (RT000383-384)
- 5/4/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Taylor- At their 4/26/94 meeting **Vlazny asked Taylor to resign as pastor of St. Leo's and St. Martin's, go for psychological evaluation, and get recommendation for care before next pastoral assignment.** Vlazny did not want to appoint Taylor to another assignment "until some of the serious issues being raised all over again since you were in treatment in early 1990 are resolved." Vlazny concerned regarding note left on rectory door in spring 1993 implying inappropriate relationship with a man living in rectory, and Taylor's subsequent attempts to keep Vlazny from visiting Taylor. In **May 1993, Vlazny's received report of Taylor's inappropriate sexual advances on children.** Vlazny listed other issues- **letters concerning allegations of sexual issues,** administrative, behavioral and personal problems. Requested Taylor go for evaluation at St. Luke's Institute (RT000386-389)
- 5/6/94 Letter from Mahon to Sioux Falls Bishop Robert Carlson- Bishop Vlazny confronted Taylor past week about a number of personal issues, pastoral leadership, etc. He **asked for Taylor's resignation and for him to get an evaluation at St. Luke's;** Taylor refused. Vlanzy has received letters about Taylor's apartments in Sioux Falls. (RT000390)
- 5/6/94 Memo from McGrath to Mahon recounting conversations with tenants at Taylor's Sioux Falls apartment building. Taylor was naked in apartments. One male tenant had sex with Taylor, met Taylor in Pipestone, Taylor let him live in the rectory. Taylor also owned rental properties in Willmar and other places. Some young men received checks from the St. Leo's parish account. (RT000391-392)
- 5/16/94 Letter from Bishop Carlson to Mahon: "this appears to be a rather serious situation." If Taylor ever issued faculties in Sioux Falls Diocese they are immediately revoked pending the outcome of the investigation. (RT000150)
- 5/29/94 Memo from McGrath to Bishop Vlazny, Mahon. McGrath spoke with two male apartment renters at Taylor's building who came home to find Taylor naked in their apartment. Taylor told them his clothes were wet from working; said he knew the two were away and he would have stayed in son's apartment but son had guests so he slept in their apartment. One of the men understood Taylor's "son" to mean adopted son. (RT000473)
- 5/18/94 Memo from McGrath to Bishop Vlazny re: "Father Taylor situation." In view of Taylor's "refusal to resign," 3 options: 1) formal removal process; 2) appoint parochial vicar; 3) leave things as they are. Third option is not prudent. He suggests they convene a presbyteral council, collect proofs, reasons for requesting

resignation, begin formal process. Other possibilities: bind Taylor under obedience to go to treatment, any violation merits suspension, removal; require Taylor to avoid contact with class of persons, no overnight rectory guests; or, if he was diagnosed in his previous treatment, and there are indications of recurrence, consult experts, declare him impeded from the exercise of orders for psychic reasons, and proceed with removal. (RT000151-153)

- 5/31/94 Memo from McGrath to Bishop Vlazny- when Taylor resigns, require him to report to treatment center for an evaluation, withdraw faculties in the meantime, inform him that disobedience will result in suspension. Issue decree suspending him if he doesn't go. If he goes to treatment, he will likely be diagnosed so that they can declare him irregular for exercise, or his thinking/behavior will have changed. (RT000153)
- 1994 (undated) Letter from Taylor to Bishop Vlazny resigning as pastor of St. Leo and St. Martin, resigning from active ministry, and seeking retirement effective 6/29/94. (RT000010)
- 6/9/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny letter to Taylor, accepting Taylor's offer to resign as pastor of St. Leo's and St. Martin's, and asking to meet with Taylor with a goal to "convince you to defer your desire to retire from the active ministry for now." (RT000155)
- 6/27/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny letter to Taylor, removing Taylor's faculties effective 6/29/94, asking for meeting. Decision to be reviewed after Taylor has evaluation at St. Luke's. (RT000397)
- 7/18/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Taylor, asking to meet to work out plans for the future. "We do have some serious issues to resolve." (RT000462)
- 8/1/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Taylor- **Vlazny still expects Taylor to go St. Luke's, but he's willing to wait until Taylor is ready.** (RT000398)
- 8/16/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Taylor- they need to meet after "A serious allegation has come forward which involves you during your tenure as pastor of Saint Pius X Church in Rochester." (RT000402)
- 8/22/94 Memo from Vlazny to Taylor file: Met with Taylor 8/20 re: "alleged sexual abuse of in 1983-84 when Father Taylor was pastor of St. Pius X Church in Rochester." Taylor denied abuse, denied recalling the victim, but recalled the parents. Taylor not to contact victim or his parents. (RT000405)
- 8/22/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Taylor. Vlazny is not satisfied with Taylor's "simple denial ... given the history of concerns and allegations," and insists Taylor go to St. Luke's for an evaluation. "Were this an isolated matter, I might approach it differently." (RT000406)

- 9/20/94 Letter from Br. Louis of St. Mary's College to St. Luke- Taylor grossly mismanaged Priests' Retirement Fund, was dishonest about it, Br. Louis discussed this at Servants of Paraclete meeting. Also discussed complaints received from two male Saint Mary's College employees re: Taylor's attempts at sexual conduct with them. (RT000410-411)
- 10/18/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Taylor- He received St. Luke's report and now needs to follow its recommendations. Asks Taylor to register at St. Luke's immediately. (RT000424)
- Undated Letter from Taylor to Thomson, Bishop Vlazny- In comparing the St. Luke report, with the report from the Servants of the Paraclete, "the most substantial and significant difference is **obviously the accusation of pedophilia**. I had thought that integral to the evaluation of St. Luke would be specific testing in the area of pedophilia." The report only stated couldn't rule it out. Taylor wanted plethysmography exam before he determined whether he would go to St. Luke's. (RT000172)
- Late 1994 Draft of Vlazny decree declaring Taylor impeded from exercising Holy Orders because: He didn't comply with the Servants of Paraclete 1990 program; there is a report of an allegation of inappropriate behavior with an adolescent in 1994 while pastor of church, "not at all dissimilar to other allegations in the past;" there have been allegations of inappropriate relationships; he has failed to comply with Vlazny's request to go to St. Luke's. Effective until it is determined a "psychic defect/illness" no longer exists. (RT000009)
- 12/1/94 Letter from Rev. James Timm of church in Adrian, Minn- Taylor was at a wedding there on 11/21/94. Taylor told Fr. Kohner of his situation, unable to receive the vows because problem with faculties had just arisen. "Father Taylor said he wasn't even sure what it was all about or even who was making the accusations." **Taylor appeared at wedding in full clerical dress, presided at Eucharist, appeared to have witnessed the marriage and blessed the rings.** (RT000461)
- 12/8/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Taylor- Vlanzy sent a decree dated 12/8/94 ordering Taylor to report for assignment to St. Luke's or face suspension. (RT000430-431)
- 12/24/94 Letter from Taylor to Bishop Vlazny complaining about request that he go to St. Luke's, about loss of faculties without due process. He denied allegation of abuse at St. Pius, said there were workmen in the church/school bathroom, wouldn't have committed pedophilia in the workmen's presence. Refused to go St. Luke's. Became priest because thought it was the easiest way to save his soul. (RT000432-435)

- 4/4/95 Memo from McGrath to Becker- Taylor is wearing his collar to court in Sioux Falls to help friends get lighter sentences. (RT000196; RT000439)
- 8/16/02 Memo from Bishop Harrington about his meeting with Taylor. Taylor is living in Sioux Falls, 2 blocks from the Cathedral. He works with released prisoners. Denies abusing young man at St. Pius. Discussed options: 1) coming back to diocese, attending treatment per Vlazny; 2) seek retirement, resign (Harrington opposed); and 3) seek laicization. Taylor didn't agree that he needed treatment, opposed laicization. (RT000440-441)
- 12/02 South Dakota Articles of Incorporation for Hispanic Service Center. Taylor listed as director and incorporator as an ordained Catholic minister. (RT000165-169)
- 4/29/03 Letter from Harrington to South Dakota secretary of state addressing the articles of incorporation for the Hispanic Service Center. Taylor is ordained but on leave of absence from ministry. He is not authorized to minister. (RT000171)