

WILLIAM CURTIS – TIMELINE



8/31/19- Born

5/3/47 - Ordained

6/11/47 Letter from Coadjutor Bishop of Winona to Curtis assigning Curtis to St. Paul's Parish in Fairmont, Minnesota effective June 26. (WC000070)

6/26/47 - St. Paul's Parish, Fairmont, MN

6/27/47 Letter from Coadjutor Bishop of Winona to Curtis transferring him from St. Paul's to St. Theodore's in Albert Lea effective July 14. (WC000071)

7/14/47 - St. Theodore's, Albert Lea, MN

8/12/47 Letter from Coadjutor Bishop of Winona to Curtis naming him assistant pastor for the care of St. Thomas Pro-Cathedral in Winona effective September 1. (WC000072)

9/1/47 - Assistant Pastor, St. Thomas Pro- Cathedral, Winona, MN

8/21/50 Letter from the Bishop of Winona to Curtis appointing him Assistant at St. John's Church in Rochester effective September 3. (WC000076)

9/3/50 - Assistant Pastor, St. John's, Rochester, MN

6/26/52 Letter from the Bishop of Winona appointing his as Vicar Substitute for Fr. Berrum in charge of the parishes at Fountain & Wykoff from July 1 to August 27. (WC000082)

7/1/52- Vicar Substitute, Fountain and Wykoff, MN

7/22/52 Letter from the Bishop of Winona to Curtis appointing him Pastor of St. Lawrence O'Toole in Fountain and St. Kilian in Wykoff effective August 5. (WC000083)

8/5/52 – Pastor, St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish, Fountain, MN and St. Kilian Parish, Wykoff, MN

- 4/29/53 Letter from Curtis to Bishop Fitzgerald resigning from St. Lawrence O'Toole and St. Kilian effective May 12 to accept chaplaincy with the U.S. Air Force. (WC000089; WC000096)
- 5/12/53- Chaplain, U.S. Air Force
- 3/28/56 Letter from the Bishop of Winona to Curtis appointing him as Administrator Pro Tem of St. Lawrence O'Toole in Fountain and St. Kilian in Wykoff. (WC000201)
- 4/2/56 – Administrator Pro Tem, St. Lawrence O'Toole, Fountain, MN and St. Kilian, Wykoff, MN
- 5/24/56 Letter from the Bishop of Winona to Curtis re-appointing him as pastor of St. Lawrence O'Toole and St. Kilian. (WC000205)
- 5/24/56 – Pastor, St. Lawrence O'Toole and St. Kilian
- 10/20/58 Letter from the Bishop of Winona to Curtis appointing him Pastor of St. Joseph's in Jasper effective October 30. (WC000209)
- 10/30/58 – Pastor, St. Joseph's, Jasper, MN
- 1/21/61 Letter from a parishioner to Bishop Fitzgerald re Curtis "the children are scared and un-respectful of Father because of his temper tantrums" (WC000350-351)
- 1/23/61 Letter from Bishop of Winona to Curtis after receiving a critical letter from a parishioner about Curtis. "One of your greatest weaknesses is an unreasonable and uncontrollable temper." (WC000352-354)
- 1/24/61 Letter from Curtis to the Bishop of Winona re the Bishop's letter about the parishioner making a complaint. He was blamed by the parishioner for an incident of attempted sexual assault by the parishioner's son on a girl in his grade. He singled out the parishioner's son "for many things and many advantages. And I have always singled the boy out for special things on the Altar." (WC000356-360)
- 1/25/61 Letter from the Bishop to the parishioner apologizing for Curtis, saying he has found it to be the opposite because of Curtis' great interest in boys. (WC000362)
- 1/12/64 Letter to Bishop Fitzgerald from a parishioner praising Curtis- "he takes a lot of interest in young people." (WC000364-367)
- 6/17/64 Letter from Curtis stating that he "raised" 2 young male family members since their fathers passed away. (WC000257)
- 6/23/65 Letter from the Bishop of Winona to Curtis appointing him as Pastor of St. Peter in Hokah effective July 28. (WC000275-276)

7/28/65 – Pastor, St. Peter’s, Hokah, MN

- 2/4/66 Letter from Curtis requesting a transfer due to a severe clash in personalities. (WC000281)
- 2/25/66 Letter from the Bishop of Winona to Curtis appointing him Pastor of the Church of Sacred Heart in Brewster effective March 13. (WC000285)
- 3/11/66 Letter from the Bishop of Winona to Curtis appointing him as chaplain of the Catholic Students at Worthington Junior College. (WC000286)

3/11/66 – Chaplain, Catholic Students at Worthington Jr. College

3/13/66- Pastor, Sacred Heart, Brewster, MN

- 9/13/66 Letter to Bishop Fitzgerald re: Curtis: “His temper is so short sometimes, especially with children we fear for our children.” (WC000374)
- 4/3/68 Letter from Stanley Hale to Bishop Fitzgerald re Fr. Curtis seeing a psychiatrist. (WC000292)
- 7/21/68 Letter from the Bishop of Winona to Curtis appointing him as Pastor of St. Theodore’s in Albert Lea effective August 21. (WC000295)

8/21/68 – Pastor, St. Theodore’s Church, Albert Lea, MN

- 1/8/76 Letter from the Bishop of Winona to Curtis appointing him as Pastor of St. Therese in Mapleton effective January 28. (WC000306-307)

1/28/76- Pastor, St. Teresa’s, Mapleton, MN

- 1/3/77 Letter from a Parishioner to Bishop of Winona re Fr. Curtis. **“I am sure you are well aware of the impact Fr. Curtis has on REDACTED Church. His homosexual acts were well known in REDACTED but when he approached my nephew and his father heard it too, that was too much.” “Bishop, you should remove this man from saying mass and ruining so many lives.”** (WC000390-000391)

6/28/64- Pastor, St Joseph, Good Thunder, MN

- 10/24/88 **Memo from Fr. Pat Lawler re Curtis: A man came into his office and stated that when he was 12 years old, he was sexually assaulted in the rectory by Curtis. “He heard at the present time Curtis is having a young man live with him.”** (WC000399)
- 10/25/88 Memo from Vlazny to Curtis file re telephone call from Fr. Lawler about a man who alleges sexual abuse by Curtis in the rectory. **Vlazny confronted Curtis, he admitted that something had taken place, that he had been too affectionate with a youngster and did not deny the accusation. Curtis also spoke of one other possible incident with the**

youngster. A young man lived with Curtis about 4 years ago at the rectory. (WC000400-000401)

- 11/18/88 Memo from Vlazy to Confidential File re Curtis. Vlazny met with Curtis at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona to review the allegation report. Curtis admitted that he acted inappropriately and agreed to undergo an evaluation by Duane Ollendick in Rochester. (WC000402)
- 6/30/89- Retired
- 6/27/90 Diocese removed Curtis' faculties to function as a priest. (WC000433)
- 7/13/90 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Curtis re welcoming Curtis to St. Luke's for an evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation is serious. (WC000417)
- 7/18/90 Letter to a victim from James D Russell at Church of St. Theodore. The Diocese is offering financial assistance for psychological counseling. The Diocese is not admitting guilt nor is it liable, they knew nothing of this until now. (WC000533)
- 8/3/90 Complaint filed on behalf of John E. Doe who was an altar boy for Curtis at the Church of St. Theodore. (WC000536-542)
- 1/15/91 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Curtis detailing restrictions and requirements of Curtis for when he returns home from St. Luke. Vlazny removed his priestly faculties and says Curtis is not permitted to engage in the public celebration of the Sacraments nor in any form of public ministry or service. He is also not to perform tutorial work. "By now it must be obvious to you that unless you seriously engage in an aftercare program upon your departure from St. Luke's, the efforts of these many months will have little if any impact on your future life." (WC000436-437)
- 3/6/91 Letter from Curtis to Bishop Vlazny asking for permission to perform marriages and funerals, specifically one for a Jewish family in San Francisco (WC000444)
- 3/13/91 Letter from Bishop Vlazney to Curtis allowing him to preside at the wedding in San Francisco. (WC000445)
- 1/21/93 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Michael Brenneis at St Luke Institute. "There is still some concern here in the diocese about past inappropriate relationships which Fr. Curtis had with young people." (WC000457)
- 1/27/93 Letter from Curtis to Bishop Vlazny re not going to St. Luke for the February workshop because he cannot afford it. "all I am going to say is that I know what I have done and I also know what I have NOT done" (WC000458)

- 2/1/93 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Curtis telling him he has to go to St. Luke and that the Diocese will pay for it. "This matter is much too serious." (WC000460)
- 7/12/93 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Michael Brenneis at St. Luke. Vlazny and Curtis's relationship is distant, "he struggled a great deal to gain some personal insight into the nature of his sexual inappropriateness. We believe that he has maintained sexual sobriety since returning home from treatment." (WC000466)
- 1/7/94 Letter from Curtis to Bishop Vlazny- Curtis is going to St. Luke for a workshop. (WC000473)
- 1/17/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Michael Brenneis at St. Luke writing in advance of Curtis' continuing care workshop. A former victim of Curtis recently committed suicide. The parents and sibling are threatening to go public with the information from concerning Curtis' relationship with the victim. The matter was settled three years ago. (WC000475)
- 1/18/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to the parents of a victim of Curtis who committed suicide. Vlazny heard they contacted an attorney and didn't want "the matter" to go public because it could hurt the community. "It became clear to me that you were suggesting that the Diocese of Winona pay a monetary settlement to you and your wife." The diocese will not settle with them in any way that could be interpreted as payment to conceal the abuse or facts of the settlement. The diocese attorney says the diocese does not have any responsibility to them. (WC000477-478)
- 1/23/94 Letter from Curtis to Bishop Vlazny requesting to preside over the wedding of his niece and the funerals of two men whom he went to Notre Dame with, should they pass away. (WC000479-480)
- 1/31/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Curtis not allowing him to preside over the wedding or funerals. (WC000481)
- 3/18/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Curtis asking him to follow his restrictions and stop presenting as a priest in public. (WC000482)
- 7/12/94 Letter from Curtis to Bishop Vlazny saying that he is going to another St. Luke Continuing Care Workshop in August. (WC000486)
- 7/18/94 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Michael Brenneis at St. Luke writing in advance of Curtis' workshop. Curtis had been appearing in public with priestly garb. Vlanzy thinks he should move out of the area since some of his victims and their families live close by, but he does not want this order to come from the Diocese. (WC000487)

- 6/25/95 Letter from Curtis to Bishop Vlazny saying that he is going to another St. Luke Continuing Care Workshop in August. (WC000493)
- 6/30/95 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Michael Brenneis at St. Luke. They are still trying to settle a case from many years ago in which he is alleged to have abused a youngster in his parish. He denies the allegations but because there have been other such incidents it makes it difficult to resolve. "a number of priests support him in a way I believe is unhealthy since they regard his present treatment by the diocese as somewhat cruel." (WC000494)
- 8/21/95 Memo from Bishop Vlazny to File. He met with the father of a victim who came to Vlazny for 3 things: 1) The father wanted the matter resolved soon for \$50,000; 2) He also wants his son to have the counseling; and 3) he wants an apology. "I never apologized for what Father Curtis had done since I wasn't sure he had really done what he was accused of." (WC000496-497)
- 12/6/95 Letter from Curtis to Dr. Richard Thomson. "I hope the Bishop and the lawyers don't think I am guilty of the allegations made against me." "The allegations against me are false." (WC000503)
- 4/2/96 Letter from Dr. Richard Thomson to Bishop Vlazny. Curtis should attend SA meetings when he is able. Fr. Curtis has a tendency to isolate himself which might lead to trouble. The meetings will help keep him focused. (WC000507)
- 5/14/96 Letter from Fr. Curtis to Bishop Vlany (or his successor) telling his side of the story about one of his abuse victims. He claims the victim stayed in the rectory with him one night but his parents knew. He denies masturbating the boy and drinking. He says he never hugged young men in his life. He destroyed his Collar. "I hate being a homosexual- I have suffered being a homosexual. I try to have a release from it but to no avail." (WC000509-511)
- 12/8/97 Handwritten Notes from a phone call with a woman who alleges that Curtis raped her husband as a child repeatedly when he was 12-14 years old. He remembered the abuse 20 years ago after his father's death and he told his mother at the time. (WC000516)
- 4/29/98 Diocese of Winona Report of Sexual Misconduct intake form. Alleges abuse by Curtis when the victim was an altar boy. Curtis would come up behind him and touch his genitals. The abuse happened in the Sanctuary and the victim's home approximately 4-6 times. (WC000339-340)
- 10/23/98 Letter from victim of Curtis to Fr. McGrath asking for continued payment of counseling. "When I talked to you on the phone, I tried to make the

point that even after 20 years, being raped is still a crime. You very abruptly stated that after that period of time he [the victim] has no recourse.” (WC000522)

4/10/01 - Died

2/15/05

Interview of a victim of abuse by Curtis. He was an altar boy and Curtis abused him in the sacristy. Curtis also rubbed his back, penis and buttocks. The abuse occurred from 1959/1960-1962. He tried to push Fr. Curtis away like the other boys but it didn't work. He told his mother at the time and she didn't believe him and threatened him. He started wetting the bed at age 12. He tried smoking cigarettes and smelling like urine to keep Fr. Away but it didn't help. (WC000527-532)

NO DATE:

E-mail from Terri Wintering to Tom and Father Rick discussing a report of abuse by a victim of Curtis. The abuse occurred in the rectory at St. Teresa in Mapleton. He reported to Fr. Velker several years ago. (WC000584)