

LOUIS HEITZER TIMELINE

- 7/15/14 Born in Furthim Wald, Bavaria, Germany.
- 6/6/42 Ordained at St. Paul Cathedral by Archbishop John G. Murray after studying at Nazareth Hall and St. Paul Seminary.
- 6/20/42 – Pastor, Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Winsted, MN (011304)
- 3/14/44 Archbishop letter to Heitzer asking him to go to Fairfax and relieve Father Leifeld of his duties due to a threatened breakdown. (011368)
- 4/19/44 – Assistant Pastor, Church of the Assumption, St. Paul, MN (011333)
- 8/25/45 – Associate Priest, Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, Marshall, MN (011303)
- 9/10/45 – Assistant Pastor, Church of St. Mary, Sleepy Eye, MN (011325)
- 12/1/49 – Administrator, St. Aloysius, Olivia, MN (011314)
- 2/15/50- Administrator, Church of the Sacred Heart, Franklin and Mission of St. Patrick, Birch Coulee, MN (011354)
- 6/19/54 – Pastor, Rosen, MN (011263)
- 1/31/55 Archbishop letter to Heitzer indicating circumstances have arisen at Rosen of which Heitzer has more detailed knowledge and asking him to enter another field of service. (011367)
- 2/10/55 – Pastor, St. Michael, Gaylord and Mission of St. Francis de Sales, Winthrop, MN (011367)
- 9/27/55 Archbishop letter to Heitzer expressing concern for Heitzer’s repetitive conduct with boys that was the occasion of his transfer from other parishes on several instances. Indicating that if self-control isn’t possible, perhaps institutional treatment is needed. (011295)
- 7/30/56 Letter from Archbishop to Heitzer stating that “again circumstances have arisen with which you are acquainted that oblige me to provide another field for your activities.” (011294)
- 8/8/56 – Pastor, St. Luke, Clearwater, MN (011294)

- 7/22/57 Archbishop letter to Heitzer indicating that complaints from St. Luke's parishioners in Clearwater are of such seriousness that they threaten civil action against Heitzer, and that the complaints fit into the pattern of other similar complaints from the past. (011326)
- 8/7/57 Letter to Fr. William O. Brady informing Brady that a delegation of parents, including one of the trustees, called to voice a very serious complaint against their pastor. The pastor in question had identical problems at other parishes: he appears mentally ill and to be in need of treatment. Handwritten note at bottom says, "Heitzer." (011357)
- Redacted Handwritten letter to the Archbishop of St. Paul stating everyone knows why Heitzer left St. Luke's in Clearwater. (011291)
- 8/18/58 – Pastor, St. Scholastica, Heidelberg, MN (011330)
- 4/5/60 Letter from Msgr. O'Keefe to Heitzer appointing Heitzer Administrator of the Church of St. Joseph in Lexington in addition to pastorate at Heidelberg. (011335)
- Administrator, Church of St. Joseph, Lexington, MN (011335)
- 8/9/66 Archbishop letter to Msgr. Cyril Popelka stating he is sad to receive the report of August 8 against the pastor of Heidelberg and instructing Fr. Bernston to receive the denunciation of Heitzer. (011366)
- 8/14/66 Terrance W. Bernston memo concerning complaints of immorality against Heitzer. Memo indications Heitzer had involvement with a number of young boys in indecent actions and advances. (011315-16)
- 8/15/66 Heitzer's resignation "for reasons known to both of us" from St. Scholastica's and St. Joseph's effective at once signed by Heitzer and Archbishop Binz. (011313)
- 8/16/66 Archbishop letter to Heitzer accepting Heitzer's resignation of Heidelberg and Lexington Parishes and appointing Heitzer Vicarius Oeconomus (Canon 472 and 473) for the administration of two parishes until Friday noon. (011349)
- 8/16/66 Archbishop letter to Heitzer informing him he's made contact with Dr. Garvey at the Golden Valley Clinic and that a reservation has been made at St. Mary's Hospital. (011320)
- 8/16/66 Archbishop letter to Msgr. Cyril Popelka informing him of Heitzer's resignation at St. Scholastica in Heidelberg and that Heitzer will enter a hospital quite soon. (011348)

- 9/8/66 Dr. Garvey letter to Bishop O'Keefe indicating that Heitzer shows no signs of any psychotic process and is competent to function as a priest. No signs of severe sexual maladjustment and the problem is due to a neurotic disorder rather than any sexual pathology. They did find a rather moderate psychoneurosis of the obsessive-compulsive type that has been helped by hospitalization. Heitzer can be reassigned to duties as a priest with perfect safety; should be seen weekly for out-patient psychotherapy as a preventative measure. Assignment to a city parish as an assistant where he can be supervised and kept away from younger boys would be wisest at this time. (011344)
- 9/8/66 C. Popelka letter to Archbishop Binz telling Binz six couples from the Heidelberg parish came to tell of the pastor there and his indecent actions with their boys. (011323)
- Undated Parent letter indicating their son knows other boys molested by Heitzer. (011379)
- Undated Parent letter indicating his son and another boy were molested by Heitzer. (011378)
- Undated Parent letter indicating Heitzer tried to remove their 15 year-old son's clothing at the lake. Two older boys know Heitzer removed clothes of other boys and have seen Heitzer do this. Letter also indicates Heitzer molested other boys to the point of erection. (011377)
- Undated Parent letter indicates their son saw Heitzer take boys' pants off. Letter indicates that the children have become frightened, even the parents fear for their lives. (011375)
- 9/14/66 Archbishop letter to Fr. Heitzer at St. Mary's Hospital stating Dr. Garvey informed him that Heitzer can leave the hospital and will be under supervision in a city parish. (011356/011343)
- 9/14/66 Archbishop letter to Fr. Joseph Bender informing him of Heitzer situation. Indicates that Heitzer should not be given responsibility in the school and in visiting hospitals, nursing homes, etc. he should be kept away from the rooms of young boys. (011345-46)
- 9/16/66 – Assistant, St. Richard, Richfield (011263)
- 12/6/66 Dr. Garvey letter to Archbishop Binz with an update on Heitzer's psychotherapy. Recommends Heitzer be moved to a rural parish. (011308)

- 12/14/66 Archbishop letter to Dr. Garvey (unsent) discussing Heitzer's inability to work in parishes, his known problems in Heidelberg and Lexington and his issues with general competency and moral problem. Archbishop wishes Heitzer could see the "horrendous spiritual consequences" of his actions. (011292-93)
- 12/15/66 Archbishop letter to Fr. Joseph E. Bender of the Church of St. Richard in Richfield asking if Heitzer can safely be sent back to a rural area, fears being subjected to subsequent scandal and asks about sending him to Nevis in the Crookston Diocese. (011372-73)
- 12/15/66 Archbishop letter to Dr. Garvey indicating that there are not many possible places left, if any, to which Heitzer can be sent. Proposes work in Nevis, MN and is deeply concerned for "our people that they should not again be scandalized as at Heidelberg." (011336-37)
- 12/21/66 Joseph Bender letter to Archbishop Binz regarding Heitzer's return to a rural parish. Bp. O'Keefe told Bender about Heitzer's problem and Heitzer told Bender the problem was exaggerated. Bender recommends assignment in Forest Lake or a chaplaincy at an all girl's school like Villa Maria. (011299)
- 2/7/67 Appointed from St. Richard's in Richfield to Church of St. Peter in Forest Lake. "Let it be known you are ill and I will not print your transfer in the Catholic Bulletin." (011255)
- 2/7/67 – Residence in the Church of St. Peter, Forest Lake, MN (011255)
- 2/22/68 Msgr. Berntson memo to file/Byrne regarding in-person discussion with Heitzer about his problem, which he admitted, and the request for Heitzer to stay "on campus" and to take no one in his car. (011250)
- 9/6/68 – Leave of Absence (011263)
- 1/4/69 Fr. Joseph McNamara letter to Msgr. Bernston regarding Heitzer who has done supply work in nearby parishes and that there haven't been any complaints so far. (011277)
- 2/13/69 Msgr. Bernston letter to Msgr. Arnold Berg in New Ulm enclosing Fr. McNamara's evaluation of Heitzer. Heitzer spoke of excardination and was dissuaded as it wouldn't be granted. (011281)
- 2/13/69 Memo for files: Heitzer is to report to New Ulm Chancery on 2/15/69 to be assigned as Chaplain of the Divine Providence Home in Ivanhoe, MN. (011280)

2/15/69 – Chaplain of the Divine Providence Home, Ivanhoe, MN (011280)

- 11/24/69 Deceased. (011263)
- Undated Handwritten notes about Heitzer taking boys on fishing trips and to St. Paul. (011251-53)
- 12/12/91 Fr. Jaroszeski memo to McDonough informing him of a call from a woman regarding Heitzer who said her brother had been abused. (011290)
- 4/22/93 McDonough memo to file regarding Heitzer, cc: Roach, Bp. Charron and Mr. Fallon. Discussed phone call from Heitzer survivor several weeks before who mentioned there were at least 12 young people he knew of who had been or might have been abused by Heitzer. (011273)
- 3/1 Phone call with Heitzer survivor who was abused at St. Luke's in Clearwater indicated 6-8 others abused. (011264)
- 8/29/02 Letter to McDonough from sibling of those abused by Heitzer in Franklin, MN from 1950-1954. (011261)
- 9/24/2002 McDonough letter stating that Heitzer is "perhaps the most abusive priest ever to be a part of this Archdiocese. I now believe he abused boys every place he went. He caused great harm and damaged many lives...it saddens me that Archdiocesan leaders became aware of this sometime along the way and could've taken stronger steps to prevent further abuse." (011256) (ARCH-ESI-0000543)
- 2/19 & 2/22/04
Email to Archdiocese from Heitzer survivor; 2/19/04 email to survivor from Judy Delaney via Kevin McDonough: "In the last few years we have learned about the abuse he committed." (11278-79)
- 10/22/07 McDonough memo to Flynn, Nienstedt and Archbishop's Council regarding a sexual abuse complaint. McDonough proposes a meeting with pastors in the area of Clinton, Roedel and Elgar to "clean out old wounds in that area." (ARCH-ESI-0000412-413)
- 1/21/08 McDonough letter to Fr. Bockenfeld, Roedel and Clinton following up on their breakfast they had one month ago. Reports of abuse by Gansmann present a pastoral challenge. Both Heitzer and Kapoun served in nearby parishes as well. (ARCH-ESI-0000421-422)

8/23/10

McDonough letter to Fr. Kevin Clinton and Deacon Robert Wagner in New Prague, MN indicates that McDonough found out about Heitzer's crimes in about 1993 when he was visiting the area while monitoring Kapoun. (ARCH-ESI-0000414-415)