

TIMELINE – JOHN THOMAS KNOTEK¹

6/11/38 – Ordination

10/12/38 Atkielski (Chancellor) letter to Knotek appointing him assistant pastor at St. John's Church in Jefferson effective immediately. (42915)

10/12/38 – Assistant Pastor, St. John the Baptist Church, Jefferson, WI

3/1/41 Archbishop letter to Knotek appointing him assistant pastor at St. Joseph's Church in Cudahy effective March 5, 1941. (42916)

3/5/41 – Assistant Pastor, St. Joseph's Church, Cudahy, WI

9/3/41 Archbishop letter to Knotek appointing him Chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital in West Bend effective September 4, 1941. (42917)

9/4/41 – Chaplain, St. Joseph's Hospital, West Bend, WI

1941-1947 – Assistant Pastor, St. John Evangelist, Milwaukee, WI (14662)

1947-1950 Sick Leave with various assignments in Arizona (14662)

12/18/47 Knotek letter to Archbishop regarding his health and sick leave due to a bronchial condition. (42918-42919)

12/22/47 Archbishop letter to Knotek indicating he does not think it advisable that Knotek return to Milwaukee during the winter months because the moisture and dampness from the lake would counteract all the progress Knotek has made. (42920)

5/27/48 Knotek letter to Archbishop indicating that his health is improving enough to warrant his return to Milwaukee. (42921-42922)

6/1/48 Archbishop letter to Knotek indicating he was pleased to receive the letter regarding his improvement in health. (42923)

6/1/48 Doctor letter to Archbishop regarding Knotek's health and that it is reasonable for Knotek to return to his diocese. (42924)

8/20/48 Archbishop letter to Bishop Gercke (Arizona) indicating Knotek must return to Arizona because the doctors tell him he should return to a dry climate. (42925)

¹ This timeline was principally prepared by Jeff Anderson & Associates PA; Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C. provided limited corrections to certain entries and assisted with redactions of abuse survivor information that could potentially have identified individual abuse survivors.

- 9/6/48 Bishop of Tucson letter to Archbishop indicating that he will look out for openings for Knotek. (42926)
- 9/1/50 Archbishop letter to Knotek appointing him assistant at St. Mary's Parish in Greenfield effective September 5, 1950. (42927)
- 9/5/50 – Assistant, St. Mary's Parish, Greenfield, WI
- 9/23/50 Archbishop letter to Knotek appointing him assistant at St. John De Nepomuc's Parish in Milwaukee effective September 28, 1950. (42928)
- 9/28/50 – Assistant, St. John De Nepomuc, Milwaukee, WI
- 2/22/54 Archbishop letter to Knotek appointing him Pastor of St. John Baptist Parish in Woodhull with attached mission of St. Mary's, Eldorado effective March 1, 1954. (42929)
- 3/1/54 – Pastor, St. John the Baptist, Woodhull, attached mission of St. Mary Mission, Eldorado, WI
- 8/9/59 Knotek letter to Archbishop explaining his health concerns and the recommendation of his doctor that he take sick leave. (42932-042933)
- 11/18/68 Cousins letter to Knotek appointing him pastor of St. James Parish in Menomonee Falls effective November 26, 1968. (42980)
- 11/26/68 – Pastor, St. James, Menomonee Falls, WI
- 11/3/71 Vicar Log Entry. - Telephone to inform Board of instability of J. Knotek, troublesome situation at St. James. (42969)
- 2/7/72 Knotek letter to Cousins resigning as pastor of St. James effective March 7, 1972. (42937)
- 2/8/72 Cousins letter to Knotek accepting his resignation. (42978)
- 2/17/72 Cousins letter to Knotek appointing him Chaplain at St. Joseph Home for the Aged in Kenosha effective March 7, 1972. (42977)
- 2/28/72 Cousins letter to Knotek accepting resignation as pastor of St. James Parish. (42976)
- 3/7/72 – Chaplain, St. Joseph's Home for the Aged, Kenosha, WI

- 3/25/82 Knotek biographical questionnaire from periodic review with list of assignments. (14659-14670) (14662)
- 10/6/82 Janicki letter to Knotek, received periodic review, unfortunate that some of Knotek's assignments in the past damaged his health to a degree, know Knotek is taking care of his health, hopes present situation provides a minimum of stress. (14671)
- 4/26/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 382. Sklba wrote Knotek a letter suggesting he submit the letter of resignation required by the Code as he turned 75. (14647)
- 5/18/88 Knotek letter to Weakland, officially tendering resignation due to age requirements, requesting resignation be made official June 30. Will live in St. Anthony's in Kenosha (former convent). (14684)
- 6/3/88 Weakland letter to Knotek, confirming receipt of resignation letter and indicating the official date will be June 30. Indicating that no priest ever really retires from the priesthood and that he will remain active as he can be in helping the priests in the Kenosha area. (14683)
- 6/30/88 – Retired
- 8/1/88 Gross (Chancellor) memo to Schneider regarding Knotek's pension since his retirement effective June 30, 1988. (42945)
- 2/26/94 Vicar Log Entry No. 91. Sklba received a cover letter from [redacted] regarding memories of a woman from approximately 1970 while a third grader at St. James School. Sklba contacted writer of cover-letter and woman to inform them that he was taking the letter seriously, that he had no knowledge of any allegations from the past, and that he would make further contact as soon as a review of the files had been completed. (14648)
- 3/2/94 Vicar Log Entry No. 106. Sklba received memo from Gross indicating the file had no reference to misconduct, but noted a sudden request from Knotek to Cousins asking to resign from St. James within a month. (14648)
- 3/15/94 Vicar Log Entry No. 139. Meeting between Sklba and Knotek discussing the allegation. Knotek asserted that he had been guilty of absolutely no improper contact with children. Knotek explained his departure from St. James Parish because of difficulties with the Associate, together with the fact that Knotek was forced to fire the janitor and needed the assistance of the Archdiocesan lawyer to handle the firing. Knotek stated that these events coupled with his bad health led him to seek another assignment. Sklba reported the matter to the woman's priest and so that he could help the woman. Sklba also reported the matter to Dr. Piasecki and Fr. Venne. Sklba wrote Knotek a letter that he was not to have unsupervised contact with children until the investigation was complete. (42842)

- 3/18/94 Vicar Log Entry No. 161. Sklba reported on the results of his investigation and indicated that there was no evidence of allegations of any sort in the files of the Archdiocese. (42842)
- 3/25/94 Sklba letter to Knotek indicating it would be best for all parties concerned if Knotek refrained from any unsupervised contact with minors pending the final conclusion of the investigation. (14685)
- 9/18/98 Vicar Log Entry No. 675. Sklba learned Knotek's name mentioned by a woman in church in connection with a mysterious event from years ago. Sklba brought the matter to the attention of Fr. Joseph Hornacek for further investigation and action as needed. (14650)
- 9/24/98 Vicar Log Entry No. 699. Sklba met with Fr. Wawiorka who indicated he never heard any expressions of concern regarding Knotek's ministry, past or present. (14650)
- 6/20/02 Survivor letter to Hornacek writing to report that they were abused by Knotek in the early 1950s between the ages of six to twelve years old at St. John the Baptist Church. (123884)
- 7/2/02 Hornacek response to letter dated June 6, 2002. Hornacek states that Knotek's name remains on the record as a perpetrator of the Archdiocese and that the individual is not the first survivor to report this kind of abuse from Knotek. (14690)
- 12/9/02 Survivor letter to Dolan. Indicating incident involving Knotek at St. James School during the late 1960s. First reported the matter in 1994 and Sklba told the survivor that Knotek is kept away from children. (14695-14696)
- 12/16/02 Reinke response (on behalf of Dolan) to survivor letter dated December 9, 2012 indicating that to date, the Archdiocese has not received any other complaints about Knotek and welcoming the survivor to call to discuss the matter further. (14697)
- 2/4/03 Dolan letter to Knotek, undertaking review of priest files, noted that there have been problems in Knotek's past of which he is well aware. Confirming restrictions on ministry in precept, no unsupervised contact with minors. (42970)
- 7/12/04 Survivor letter to Dolan regarding Knotek's name on the list of priests restricted from all priestly ministries and asking if there were enough reports in past 2 years to put his name on the list. (14694)
- 7/17/04 Cusack letter to survivor (on behalf of Dolan) in response to July 12, 2004 letter. Letter states that Dr. Cusack reviewed Knotek's files and there is no explanation

for Reinke's statement that as of December 2002 no reports had been made about Knotek. In July 2002 someone reported an incident from the 1950s. Perhaps the volume of contacts during that particular time led to the misinformation. Letter apologizes for the mistaken report, provides contact information for the Sexual abuse Mediation System and the mediation program, and offers to set up a meeting with Dolan (14693)

11/6/04 Vicar Log Entry No. 351 (CJF). Vicar visited with Knotek, he is living in prayer and penance. (42891)

1/6/06 – Deceased

Undated Timeline of Knotek's assignments. (42981)