

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING JEROME A. WAGNER¹

5/3/72 – Ordained

5/16/72 Appointed Associate Pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in West Bend, WI effective June 13, 1972. (22302)

6/13/72 – Associate Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, West Bend, WI

10/14/77 Appointed to graduate studies and faculty at De Sales Preparatory Seminary High School in Milwaukee, WI effective January 17, 1978. (22304)

1/17/78 – Graduate Studies and Faculty, De Sales Preparatory Seminary High School, Milwaukee, WI

3/22/79 Appointed Director of St. Frances de Sales Call to Ministry Program at the High School Level effective June 1, 1979. (22313)

6/1/79 – Director, St. Frances de Sales Call to Ministry Program – High School Level

5/31/83 Appointed pastoral team member at St. Jerome Parish in Oconomowoc, WI effective June 21, 1983. (22186)

6/21/83 – Pastoral Team Member, St. Jerome Parish, Oconomowoc, WI

9/7/84 Appointed chaplain to Knights of Columbus. (22317)

8/30/85 Police Report made regarding Wagner. He gave alcohol to a boy and made sexual advances. (22074-22075)

10/10/85 Vicar Log Entry No. 206. Fr. Gross received a phone call from a postal inspector regarding the possibility of pornographic material being sent to Wagner. Weakland spoke with the postal inspector who informed Weakland that he had been instructed by an assistant district attorney to watch for this material. The postal inspector reported that he has not yet seen such evidence. (22038)

2/24/86 Police interview of Wagner- he admits to giving boys alcohol and to “cradling” boys, laying in sexual positions with them. (47181-47182)

3/17/86 Vicar Log Entry No. 140. Under Wagner it states that someone called Sklba about a police visit to his son over the weekend. (22038)

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.

- 4/9/86 Vicar Log Entry No. 165. Sklba call from Wagner saying that the legal action had been dropped and Wagner's lawyers are reviewing the initial deal to see whether reassignment remains a requirement immediately, in June or in one year. (22038)
- 4/16/86 Vicar Log Entry No. 167. Sklba noted that he received another call stating that the police affirmed that a polygraph has verified charges against Wagner. (22038)
- 4/16/86 Vicar Log Entry (172) – Discussions with attorneys resulted in an agreement that there would be no charges against Wagner regarding activity with teenagers and that there will be no prosecution regarding providing alcohol to minors. (22039)
- 4/28/86 Appointed Pastor at St. Louis Parish in Fond du Lac, WI effective May, 1986. (22188)

5/1/86 – Pastor, St. Louis Parish, Fond du Lac, WI

- 5/23/86 Letter from the mother of an individual abused by Wagner to Sklba stating that Wagner abused their 15 year old son at a crucial time in his life when the decision to drink is such a terrific pressure on him. Says Sklba's letter dealt with the perpetrator's side. She kept quiet because she believed it would be handled appropriately but assigning Wagner to another parish to work among young people "is a miscarriage of justice." She is mad that Sklba kept Wagner at St. Jerome's, especially since Wagner came back for the individual's confirmation, thinks it is "abhorrent." (22192-22194)
- 7/28/86 Letter from Wagner to Sklba- He doesn't feel good about how he left Oconomowoc but he will forgive and forget and put the past behind him. (22129)
- 11/14/86 Letter from a father (husband of the woman who wrote on 5/23/86) whose son was given alcohol by Wagner- she is upset that Wagner didn't get punished. She says the criminal charges against Wagner were dropped. (22196-22198)
- 10/30/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 797. Venne received a call from a social worker from Fond du Lac county who said she overheard detectives talking about allegations against Wagner from another county and saying that they are waiting to get him. (22040)
- 2/3/93 Memo from Weakland to Marie Rohde discussing the 1986 allegations against Wagner. There were two allegations- giving alcohol to a minor and the intent of sexual solicitation. The priest admitted to the first allegation, one that was serious and treated as such. A thorough investigation, with which Wagner cooperated, was done by the police on the second allegation; the investigation lasted at least six months. The priest hired a lawyer. Because of insufficient evidence no charges were ever brought. There was an agreement with the DA that no charges would be brought if Wagner got counseling and was moved to another assignment. Archdiocese knows of no other conditions in the agreement.

Weakland thinks “it would be a grave injustice to the priest as a U.S. citizen if, on the basis of an allegation that was not proven, his reputation would be ruined.” (22138)

11/27/93 Memo regarding Wagner. Piasecki and Barbian met with the District Attorney for Waukesha County to determine if there were any current complaints of misconduct of any kind against Wagner. DA reported Wagner’s file had been lost, believes that it may have been discarded when there were no charges filed against Wagner. DA said he thought it was part of the agreement that Wagner would not be reassigned to a ministry in which there would be contact with minor children. Piasecki and Barbian indicated they were not aware of any such restriction. DA checked his computer to see if there were any complaints currently – there were none.

Piasecki and Barbian met with the chief of police for Fond du Lac. Chief of police has a copy of the agreement, but declines to show it because it contains juvenile names. Agreement provided that Wagner would continue in spiritual direction and psychological counseling, the Archbishop would be personally responsible for Wagner’s continued personal growth, and Wagner would conduct a parish workshop on the dangers and damages of addiction to alcohol. There was **no** stipulation in the agreement that Wager would be reassigned to a ministry with restrictions on access to children.

Chief of police said that there have been no complaints about Wager. The chief of police said he was aware that Wagner had given some motorcycle rides to a 12 year old boy in Fond du Lac. There was no hint of any kind of misconduct. (47105-47106)

8/5/94 Letter from Cusack to Wagner restricting him from, among other items, unsupervised contact with minors, overnight guests and use of alcohol with or in the presence of those under 21. (22136-22137)

8/11/94 Chronology of accusations against Wagner. Wagner admits to giving alcohol to minors and enters treatment. Archdiocese did not see the police report. In November 1993, the Archdiocese receives a call from someone with a copy of the police report. Archdiocese is informed that, in the police report, Wagner admits to being in ‘a sexually oriented position’ with a minor. November 17, 1993 Piasecki and Barbian met with the Waukesha DA and Fond du Lac Police Chief. In July 1994, the Archbishop sees the police report for the first time. August 1994, evaluation of Wagner begun. (58691-58693)

8/19/94 Vicar Log Entry No. 523. Sklba attended a crisis intervention meeting and learned that Wagner was in serious counseling in 1986-1987. Sklba learned of some of the requirements of the still unseen agreement. There are still items to address from the agreement with the DA such as Wagner’s spiritual direction and supervision. They first saw the police report in July 1994. (22041)

- 8/22/94 Letter from Piasecki to St. Michael's referring Wagner for an evaluation. (22473)
- 8/28/94 Wagner participates in the full assessment at St. Michael's in St. Louis (lasting until September 1, 1994. (22041)
- 9/1/94 Sklba attends formal final assessment of Wagner at St. Michael's in St. Louis. Discussed issues of psycho-sexual development and intimacy, motivation, the strength of Jerry's ego and the seriousness of behavior which had been candidly shared during the week. Archdiocese is waiting on written report, but oral recommendation from evaluation is that there is a need to develop a clear, comprehensive treatment plan, determine the number of visits to the professional counselor and spiritual director, to obtain a release from Wagner to share information with the spiritual director, and to establish a contact person to monitor Jerry's ministry and make sure that the restrictions remain in place. (22041)
- 9/8/94 Servants of the Paraclete summary about Wagner. Recommends regular individual psychotherapy, regular spiritual direction, a contact person in the Archdiocese who could serve as an advisor/monitor to Wagner. Says that if Wagner is alone with a minor again or gives alcohol to a minor, they strongly recommend he be put on administrative leave and be asked to place himself in a residential treatment program. States, "We did not recommend that Jerry be removed from active ministry. Whether or not this happens is not a recommendation that we ordinarily make but after reading the report, we leave that decision to the discretion of the person's Ordinary."(47052-47053)
- 9/20/94 Memo from Liz Piasecki to Weakland regarding her team's interview of Wagner where he admitted to giving alcohol to minors and that he had a pattern of sexual behavior from his first assignment in 1972 until approximately 1993. "In fact, the criminal statute may still be running in some cases involving Father Wagner." Piasecki cannot recommend that Wagner remain in a parish setting. (22091-22093)
- 12/12/94 Archdiocese settlement regarding Jerome Wagner's abuse with a survivor. (22122-22128)
- 10/19/95 Piasecki spoke to Father Dick Robinson who was told by a social worker that well over a year ago, she and others, saw boys coming out of the rectory after 8:30 or 9 p.m. and that another social worker had said that she is sure Wagner is a pedophile or homosexual given his attention to the boys after Mass on Sunday. (22414)
- 2/12/96 Memo from Piasecki. She met with Wagner and his therapist to review the complaints against Wagner from social workers in Fond du Lac. Wagner says he's had no unsupervised contact with minors and his therapist hasn't heard any rumors. (22131)

5/14/97 Appointed Administrator of St. Peter Parish in St. Peter, WI effective June 30. He will remain pastor at St. Louis Parish. (46961)

6/30/97 – Administrator, St. Peter Parish, St. Peter, WI

5/8/00 Appointed member of the in solidum team at Holy Family Parish in Fond du Lac, WI effective July 1, 2000. (22269)

7/1/00 – Member of In Solidum Team, Holy Family Parish, Fond du Lac, WI

4/12/02 Consent for the release of information and records to the special commission authorizing the commission to review Wagner’s medical and treatment records. (46978)

4/19/02 Article in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel about Wagner being accused in 1985 and how he now helps assign priests in the Archdiocese. Wagner was elected to the Priest Placement Board by other priests in the Fond du Lac area. (22272-22273)

4/29/02 Memo from Reinke who spoke with a woman who was a youth group advisor from 1986-1990 at St. Louis parish and Wagner made her “uneasy” and he had really close relationships with some boys. Once she found her son in the rectory with Wagner, who pinned his hands behind his back and had a dog lick his face. (47375)

5/8/02 Vicar Log Entry No. 281. Sklba talked to the police in Fond du Lac who were aware of the previous report but “were not in any position to do monitoring and in fact had not done so . . .” (22044)

7/8/02 Memo from Reinke who spoke with a woman who previously contacted the Archdiocese on 4/29/02. Woman was concerned about Wagner and seeing boys coming and going from the rectory. A friend of hers is also concerned. Friend talked to the family of a child, and they told her they wanted nothing to do with making a report. (22328)

12/5/02 Letter from Dolan to Wagner recognizing Wagner’s willingness to step aside from his responsibilities at Holy Name Parish in response to the request from Bishop Sklba to do so. Dolan states that he cannot foresee ever returning him to active ministry or recommending him to another diocese or religious community. Dolan asks for Wagner’s resignation. (22330)

2003 Summary of files on Wagner discusses allegations and police reports against Wagner and states that police and social service workers in Fond du Lac report that Wagner’s limitation that he not be unsupervised around minors is not being adhered to. (22362)

- 1/16/03 Dolan letter to Wagner asking Wagner to submit his resignation within 15 days. Dolan says that it is in Wagner's advantage and to the good of the parish "submit your resignation voluntarily rather than experience a more arduous closure to your assignment at Holy Family." (22331)
- 2/4/03 Letter from Carolyn Burrell, Wagner's attorney, to Dolan saying that Wagner will not resign from Holy Family. Requests \$385,000 paid over a period of years until Wagner reaches the age of 65 in exchange for Wagner's resignation. Raises concerns about benefits and medical insurance coverage. (22358-22359)
- 2/5/03 Letter from Hornacek to Wagner with his options for resignation including voluntary laicization with a \$20,000 payment (\$10,000 when the petition is submitted and \$10,000 when a definitive response is received) or have the Archdiocese commence a penal process. (22340-22341)
- 3/28/03 Canonical document signed by Dolan removing Wagner from Holy Family Parish. (22402-22404)
- 3/31/03 Dolan precept to Wagner to cease from public ministry and have no contact with minors. (22405)
- 9/20/04 Letter from Dolan to Cardinal Ratzinger at the CDF submitting Wagner's case and asking for it to proceed through a canonical penal process. Letter includes a summary of accusations against Wagner and steps taken to limit his ministry. (22062-22066)
- 2/8/05 Letter from Fr. Frederick to Wagner stating that the custom is to give \$10,000 if he seeks laicization and another \$10,000 when laicization is granted. Also states, "Regarding publicity, the Archbishop has limited any announcements to the priests of the Archdiocese, utilizing his first Thursday of the month circular." (22054)
- 2/14/05 Letter from the CDF to Dolan stating that they could do a penal administrative process and not a judicial process. Suggests asking Wagner if he would freely request dispensation. (22049)
- 3/21/05 Letter from Fr. Frederick to Wagner outlining the process of voluntary dispensation from the priesthood. (22056-22057)
- 3/26/05 Letter from Wagner to Pope John Paul II requesting dispensation from the priesthood. Dolan has determined that his sinfulness means that he will never get another assignment. (22051)
- 3/29/05 Dolan letter to CDF enclosing Wagner's voluntary petition for dispensation. (22050)

- 3/29/05 Letter from Rev. Frederick to Wagner clarifying Wagner's severance package. Wagner will receive \$10,000 when he submits to be voluntarily laicized and another \$10,000 when his laicization is approved. (22048)
- 6/15/07 Letter from Dolan to Amato at the CDF stating that Wagner previously submitted a voluntary petition for laicization but it has recently come to Dolan's attention that Wagner violated the precept by presiding at a funeral service that was reported in the newspaper. (47030-47031)
- 10/6/07 Document from the CDF stating that Wagner has been dismissed from the clerical state. (40015-40016)
- 10/10/07 Letter from the CDF to Dolan stating that Wagner's voluntary laicization has been granted. (40019)