

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING JOHN C. WAGNER¹

5/15/73 Appointed Associate Pastor at St. William Parish in Waukesha, WI effective June 12, 1973. (22528)

6/9/73 – Ordained

6/12/73 – Associate Pastor, St. William, Waukesha, WI

2/2/74 Dr. Davies letter to Cousins regarding Wagner's hospitalization to determine the cause of rectal bleeding. A minor reason for the bleeding has been found which, physically is easily controlled. Wagner is extremely tense over the situation at the rectory, which is apparently a definite clash between pastor and associate pastor only. Recommends a six-week sick leave and reassignment. (22530-22531)

6/10/74 Appointed Associate Pastor at St. Mary Parish in Sheboygan Falls, WI effective June 18, 1974. (22538)

6/18/74 – Associate Pastor, St. Mary, Sheboygan Falls, WI

6/6/75 Newspaper article about Wagner's involvement in a new youth retreat center called Tanglewood. (22813-22814)

5/28/76 Appointed to campus ministry at the University of Wisconsin, Sheboygan and Lakeland College effective June 15, 1976. (22541)

6/15/76 – Campus Ministry, University of Wisconsin, Sheboygan and Lakeland College

1979-80 Newspaper article noting Wagner's involvement with YES (Youth Exchange Service). Notes that during the school year Wagner will be hosting a high school student from Mexico and plans were being made for him to have a student from Belgium the following year. (22996)

2/2/81 Appointed Director Pro Tem of the Office for Campus Ministry at UW Sheboygan effective February 10, 1981. (22679)

2/10/81 – Director Pro Tem, Office for Campus Ministry, UW Sheboygan

1/18/82 Vicar Log Entry No. 62. Fr. Wenig called the vicar to report that he was upset by a report that Wagner is requesting to live on campus at the De Sales because Wenig recalls an incident within the past year when Wagner made an improper

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.

advance towards a student. States Fr. Tom Finucan heard about it and wrote Wagner a letter warning him. (22968)

8/10/82 – Team Member and Administrator, St. Patrick, Whitewater, WI

- 8/12/82 Appointed Team Member and Administrator at St. Patrick Parish in Whitewater, WI effective August 10, 1982. (22695)
- 6/15/82 Vicar Log Entry No. 561. Nun reported that Wagner called her and was upset about being asked to fill in at St. Mary, Port Washington. Nun stated that Wagner told her confidentially that the reason he did not want to return to Port Washington was because in the past “he had ‘messed around with some girls there.’” (22972)
- 2/18/83 Vicar Log Entry No. 190. Wagner has “a young, foreign, high school student from Mexico living in the guest room in his quarters. He spends about one hour per day helping the student with English. The student provides him with the opportunity to get away and they recreate together from time to time.” (22974)
- 3/16/83 Letter from Fr. Janicki to psychiatrist referring Wagner for an evaluation because Janicki is concerned about Wagner’s variant mood swings and suspects that Wagner may be going through a vocational crisis. One of Wagner’s best priest friends, Father Leo Lambert, thinks that Wagner is ‘amoral.’ Lambert thinks that Wagner has some psychosexual problems. (23034)
- 3/20/83 Wagner scheduled for a complete evaluation at Wausau from March 20-23, 1983. (23033)

1/86-6/86 - Sabbatical in Rome

- 5/12/86 Vicar Log Entry No. 210. Sklba met with Wagner to discuss results of his sabbatical and his reassignment process this spring. Discusses 3 things including Wagner’s anger at times was abusing and harassing to people who disagreed with him, questions regarding Wagner’s financial administration at the parish, and “the subtle reputation regarding sexual activity on [Wagner’s] part.” (22976)
- 8/18/86 Vicar Log Entry No. 407. Sklba met with parishioners from St. Patrick Parish in Whitewater. Parishioners reported that two Mexican exchange students claimed that Wagner had propositioned them causing them to move out of the rectory. (22977)
- 8/20/86 Handwritten notes stating that on August 18, 1986, there was an allegation regarding an exchange student (48312)

9/5/86 Appointed Temporary Administrator at Holy Name Parish in Wilmot, WI effective September 14, 1986, while the pastor of Holy Name Parish is away on sabbatical. (22722)

9/14/86 – Temporary Administrator, Holy Name Parish, Wilmot, WI

10/13/86 Sklba letter to Wagner saying that inquiries at Whitewater are still under way but it seems like the administration is cleared of at least some of the questions that arose last spring. Sklba is waiting on a final report from local authorities. Also says that last May Wagner agreed to enter into counseling. Indicates that Sklba tried to be an advocate on Wagner's behalf, keeping in mind their discussions earlier in the summer (see 5/12/86). (23053-23054)

10/16/86 Letter from Tom Suriano to unknown discussing potential meeting between Wagner and a woman, at the woman's request. Wagner's therapist and Wagner's lawyer now advise against the meeting. The woman's goal is for Wagner not to see her son, who is now 18. She wants closure. (23214-23215)

11/24/86 Letter from Sklba to Wagner discussing a meeting in Washington and that he had been repeatedly admonished by legal counsel "that it would be a mistake to move toward a permanent placement at the end of your stay in Wilmot next month. The potential hazard of such a move in view of the situation and the publicity given to suits in Green Bay would suggest rather that [Wagner] be discussing a place of residence in a parish while [he] continue[s] counseling, with the possibility of some pastoral work here." (23059)

12/12/86 Letter from Sklba to Fr. Neuman stating that he wrote to Wagner on November 24, 1986 stating that in Sklba's opinion immediate reassignment of Wagner to a pastoral responsibility did not seem wise. Sklba suggested that Wagner move to residence in Milwaukee, with formal awaiting assignment status while receiving additional counseling. Wagner would be free and encouraged to be active in some pastoral work at the parish of his residence, and they would seek a more permanent placement in consultation with the psychologist and legal counsel. (48081)

1/16/87 Report from psychiatrist to Bishop Sklba stating that "Father Wagner's sexual drives are strong and that no mental health professional could predict with certainty whether he could, indeed, live a celibate life." Psychiatrist states that he believes the potential for a fruitful career in the ministry can be enhanced if certain safeguards are built into Wagner's assignments. Wagner has agreed to commit to celibacy and will not be alone with minors. (23062-23063)

5/26/87 Letter to Brust thanking him for sending Wagner to help at St. Mary School. (23069-23070)

9/25/87 Appointed Associate Pastor at St. Catherine Parish in Milwaukee, WI, effective September 25, 1987. (22723)

9/25/87 – Associate Pastor, St. Catherine, Milwaukee, WI

- 10/13/87 Sklba letter to Wagner stating that he was delighted at the news that he was back in parish ministry and that he heard good things about Wagner at a youth mass. Sklba asked Wagner to meet with his psychiatrist to review any special safeguards necessary for fruitful use of the opportunity for alternative residence. (23080)
- 5/6/88 Letter from Wagner's therapist to Sklba--he is seeing Wagner less and thinks that he's under control sexually. (23084)
- 5/24/88 Letter from Sklba to Wagner's therapist stating that he recently learned from a meeting of diocesan lawyers that attorneys were recommended to seek a double opinion from professional sources before recommending reassignment after difficult situations. (23083)
- 12/4/89 Letter from Wagner to Sklba reassuring him that he's celibate but says there are areas in his life that still need work and he continues to meet with his therapist. (23089-23090)
- Undated Possibly 1990. Sklba noted that the Wagner incident is stirring again in Whitewater and that a policeman had visited. (47995)
- 10/5/90 Vicar Log Entry Nos. 791 and 828. Sklba interviewed by an investigator from the Whitewater district attorney's office regarding an allegation from 1985 and indicates he would check his personal notes. Investigator expressed appreciation for the cooperation of the Archdiocese. (22980)
- 4/20/92 Letter from Martin Kohler (Wagner's attorney) to Wagner stating that the allegations by a 17 year old from 1985 are barred by the statute of limitations both criminally and civilly. (48370)
- 4/28/92 Appointed Associate Pastor at St. Sebastian Parish in Milwaukee, WI effective June 23, 1992. Appointment was voided (see 5/26/92). (22725)
- 5/15/92 Document waiving all claims against Wagner by a man who made allegations against him in 1985 in consideration for Wagner meeting with the man. (23112)
- 5/26/92 Letter from Wagner to Weakland saying he met with Sklba and others and all agreed that it would be better to reconsider his assignment to St. Sebastian. (22727)

- 6/16/92 Letter from Sklba to Wagner stating that it might not be wise to do a speedy movement to another assignment because further discussion is required of his situation. (22732)
- 6/30/92 Letter from Wagner to Sklba thanking him for arranging the help out work at St. Theresa. (23119)
- 7/6/92 Letter from Sklba to Wagner acknowledging that Wagner is working at St. Theresa. (23118)
- 8/17/92 Letter from Wagner's therapist to Sklba saying Wagner has been celibate and has avoided contact with adolescent males. (23121)
- 11/5/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 678. Sklba noted that an individual (same individual who came forward previously regarding the allegation in 1985) came forward with an allegation which was filmed by Channel 12. Sklba contacted Wagner the next day and told him that he was not to return to help out that weekend at St. Theresa. (22983)
- 1/5/93 Newspaper article saying that Wagner had been named in a lawsuit. (23125)
- 7/9/93 Letter from Weakland to Wagner prohibiting contact with minors and any public ministry and saying he will begin an investigation. (22728-22731)
- 11/19/93 Memo from clergy personnel office listing all log entries with problems or allegations against Wagner. 1982 was the first improper advance toward a student. (23220-23221)
- 1/23/94 Settlement agreement for \$100,000 for Wagner's abuse. Individual was represented by counsel at the time of the settlement agreement (23152-23158)
- 3/30/94 Letter from Weakland to Daniel Ward stating that Wagner will not be able to take a ministry position "due to the nature of past events and the scandal connected with them." He will move ahead with Wagner's dispensation. (23162)
- 5/9/95 Letter from Cusack to Wagner stating that they had not received the settlement documents back regarding Wagner's voluntary dismissal. As of the end of April, Wagner's remuneration from the Archdiocese ceased. (22760)
- 5/13/95 Letter from Wagner to Weakland stating that he wouldn't sign a settlement agreement and he wants to remain a priest. He is doing work with the Sisters of Charity. (22770-22771)
- 12/17/95 Sexual abuse intake report. Wagner abused a boy in 1976 at Tanglewood when the boy was 15. The boy told another seminarian in 1976 and others in 1982 and 1986. (123898)

- 4/19/02 Sexual abuse intake report. A man reports abuse by Wagner in 1964-1965 when the individual was in 5th grade while Wagner was at St. Peter's grade school. (123898)
- 1/24/03 Memo from Reinke about a call from a Lutheran pastor whose parishioner, a woman, was abused by Wagner when she was 16. Woman does not want report to go to the district attorney – does not want anything to do with any civil legal process. Lutheran pastor identifies the abuser as John Wagner. Woman will consider whether she is willing to make a report. (48193)
- 2/25/03 Email from an unknown woman to Barb at the Archdiocese (in connection with woman referenced on 1/24/03) confirming that there was a camping trip that she was on with her friend. She says she is dealing with abuse issues (unclear if reference is personal or to the woman's job as a social worker) and does not want to be contacted. (22908)
- 8/16/04 Interview of Wagner as part of a sexual abuse investigation against him. The allegations are that he raped a girl at a camp when he was a deacon doing an internship at St. Frederick's church. He said he never had sex with a girl whatsoever. Wagner was asked to clarify whether this meant that Wagner was admitting to having sexual relations with adult females, but not juveniles. Wagner refused to clarify the statement. Wagner said "lots of people are sexually active." He says he was sexually abused by a nun as a child and then later by faculty members when he was in seminary. The timeline on Wagner summarizes a psychologist's report on Wagner, says that he views genital interaction as an extension of sexuality of a relationship and admits that he is sexual, and has been heterosexual and homosexual. He believes celibate means not married and is committed to express his sexuality as he sees fit as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else. Some of his priest friends say he has psychosexual problems. Also refers to a letter from 9/18/92 that said Wagner is clearly attracted to adolescent males. (22854-22858)
- 3/28/05 Settlement agreement with Wagner survivor. Includes \$28,000 for the individual's ministry, \$50,000 in consideration for past counseling and debt, and 5 years of counseling, no more than \$1,200 per year. (57217-57219)
- 5/19/05 Settlement agreement with Wagner survivor. Includes \$66,771 and \$34,393 for therapy. (56589-56591)
- 8/30/05 Sexual abuse intake report from an individual abused by Wagner in the late 1960's when the survivor was 13-15 years old. His brother's son still spends time alone with Wagner. (123898)
- 9/14/05 Letter from Dolan to Amato at the CDF submitting Wagner's case and asking that he be dismissed from ministry. Says that Wagner admitted to some sexual acts

and he has not been in compliance with the order to have no unsupervised contact with minors. He also writes that the liability for the Archdiocese is great as is the potential for scandal. (40053-40054). Includes summary of Wagner's case. (40045-40047)

- 11/8/05 Settlement agreement with Wagner survivor for \$80,000. (56489-56491)
- 12/15/05 Settlement agreement with Wagner survivor for \$96,000. (56894-56896)
- 1/17/06 Settlement agreement with Wagner survivor for \$95,000 plus health insurance costs. (56496-56499)
- 7/10/06 Letter from the CDF to Dolan stating that he has not responded to CDF request for more information concerning the acts of the preliminary investigation and also whether Wagner was willing to request freely a dispensation. (40064)
- 1/15/08 Letter from Dolan to the CDF stating that he is once again submitting the case of Wagner who admitted abuse and that he may still be in contact with teenage boys. Wagner has cut off all contact with the Archdiocese so there is no way of confronting Wagner with the additional reports. States potential for scandal is great. "Pending state legislation to abolish retroactively the statute of limitations will gain more supporters if it appears we are letting these pending cases languish."(40048-40049)
- 2/22/08 Letter from the CDF to Dolan stating that he should start a penal process against Wagner or ask him to voluntarily petition for laicization. (40067-40068)
- 03/28/08 Letter from Pat Laagas as Wagner's advocate, to Dolan stating that Wagner is out of money. Also says that Wagner was sexually abused by the Church and the Archdiocese bears some responsibility. He says the \$20,000 offered for voluntary laicization is not enough, and if the Archdiocese gives him more money he will likely voluntarily petition for laicization. (40078-40079)
- Undated Notes of allegations against Wagner. 1982 Improper advances. Two students moved out of the rectory in 1986 because they were "propositioned by John." 1986 first report from one individual. 1987 parishioners report conversation and activity that was inappropriate. 1990 District Attorney is involved with allegations that were first reported in 1986 (same individual). 1992 allegations involving another individual. 1993 allegations involving two additional abuse survivors. (48017)