

## CDF involvement in Stephen Kiesle case

### June 1981

Bishop Cummins petitioned the Pope to laicize Kiesle. States Kiesle was arrested for taking sexual liberties with at least six young men ages 11-13. States Kiesle pled no contest to the charges.

### November 1981

Diocese received a letter from Cardinal Ratzinger requesting additional information. (noted in Diocese 1983 memo)

### February 11, 1982

Diocese sent additional information to CDF. (noted in Diocese 1983 memo)

### September 24, 1982

Diocese hadn't received any word from CDF so they sent another letter asking about Kiesle case. (noted in Diocese 1983 memo)

### October 21, 1982

CDF sent a "rather curtly" letter that told the Diocese that the matter would be examined at an opportune time." (noted in Diocese 1983 memo)

### September 1983

Cummins met with CDF in Rome about Kiesle case

### September 1985

Diocese letter to Ratzinger asking the status of the laicization petition on Kiesle.

### November 1985

Ratzinger wrote a letter to Diocese of Oakland about the petition for Kiesle's laicization.

See AP Story - Ratzinger letter, Ratzinger says the arguments for removing Kiesle are of "grave significance" but added that such actions required very careful review and more time. He also urged the bishop to provide Kiesle with "as much paternal care as possible" while awaiting the

decision, according to a translation for AP by Professor Thomas Habinek, chairman of the University of Southern California Classics Department. But the future pope also noted that any decision to defrock Kiesle must take into account the "good of the universal church" and the "detriment that granting the dispensation can provoke within the community of Christ's faithful, particularly considering the young age." Kiesle was 38 at the time.

January 1986

Diocese letter describes Ratzinger's 1985 letter. States that Diocese received a letter from the Prefect for the CDF (Ratzinger at the time). States CDF will need more time and CDF wonders if granting dispensation might "provoke some scandal among the faithful"

1987

Kiesle laicized

1988

Kiesle is the youth coordinator at a parish in Pinole, CA in the Diocese of Oakland for at least 8 months.