

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING MICHAEL NEUBERGER¹

5/26/62 – Ordination

7/3/62 Cousins letter to Neuberger appointing him Assistant at St. Philip Neri Parish in Milwaukee, effective July 12, 1962. (18540)

6/12/62 – Associate Pastor, St. Philip Neri Parish, Milwaukee, WI

6/19/64 Cousins letter to Neuberger appointing him Curate at St. Boniface Parish in Milwaukee, effective July 1, 1964. (18541)

7/1/64 – Curate, St. Boniface Parish, Milwaukee, WI

9/7/65 Cousins letter to Neuberger appointing him part-time Instructor of Religion at St. John's Cathedral High School for the coming scholastic year. (18542)

6/7/68 Cousins letter to Neuberger transferring him to Messmer High School and immediately relieving Neuberger of his administrative or financial duties at St. Boniface Parish. (18545) Neuberger served as Religion Teacher, Guidance Counselor and Priest in Residence at Messmer High School. (38959)

6/7/68 – Counselor, Priest in Residence, Messmer High School, Milwaukee, WI

8/1/70 – In residence, St. Gall Parish, Milwaukee, WI

8/6/70 Cousins letter to Neuberger appointing him "In Residence" at St. Gall Parish rectory in Milwaukee, effective August 1, 1970. (18546)

8/28/72 Cousins letter to Neuberger about Neuberger's living in the rectory building at St. Gall's. Neuberger agreed to vacate the rectory building and facilities he was using by August 31, 1972. Because of financial conditions at St. Gall and the parish need for the property, this letter of reminder is being sent asking Neuberger to vacate pursuant to the terms of the agreement. The issue does not involve the Personnel Board because the Board is not required to furnish residence to one who is not in the immediate service of the Archdiocese. (18547)

8/31/72 Neuberger letter to Cousins regarding vacating the facilities at St. Gall's. Neuberger is living at St. Gall's because of the job he has, which the Archbishop requested that he get, because the Archbishop said that he could not assign Neuberger to any parish or institution of the diocese because reaction to Neuberger's background at St. Boniface would render him a financial liability. (39009-39014)

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.

6/30/73 Sampon letter to Neuberger appointing him “in residence” at St. Michael’s rectory in Milwaukee, effective July 3, 1973. Appointment will not go beyond the 1st of September without further review. (38966)

7/11/73 Cousins letter to parishioners referencing press accounts and stating that they would reconsider the conclusions they have drawn about Neuberger upon a complete review of the facts. (39024) At the time there were press reports about the action to evict Neuberger from St. Gall’s. (38954-57)

7/30/73 – In Residence, St. Michael’s Parish, Milwaukee, WI

8/24/73 Cousins letter to Neuberger appointing him to the Faculty of Thomas More High School in Milwaukee, effective immediately. (18589)

8/24/73 – Faculty at St. Thomas More High School, Milwaukee, WI

2/15/74 Sampon letter to Romanski (Squadron Commander, Greendale Composite Squadron) indicating Neuberger has applied for CAP membership and Chaplaincy and is pleased to grant the endorsement on behalf of the Archdiocese. Letter indicates Neuberger is an ordained priest and has what approval he requires to apply for Chaplaincy in the Civil Air Patrol. (39026)

12/6/74 Sampon letter to Terence Cardinal Cooke indicating permission for Neuberger to pursue the possibility of an appointment as a Reserve Chaplain in the military service. (18590)

4/8/78 Weakland letter to Neuberger appointing him to the Catholic Campus Ministry, University of Wisconsin-Parkside effective immediately. (18618)

4/8/78 – Catholic Campus Ministry, UW-Parkside

1978 Neuberger has minor foster children living with him. (38396)

5/25/79 Weakland letter to Neuberger appointing him Associate Pastor at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Lake Geneva, effective June 19, 1979. (39057)

6/19/79 – Associate Pastor, St. Francis de Sales Parish, Lake Geneva, WI

5/22/80 Janicki letter to Neuberger appointing him Associate Pastor at St. Dominic Parish in Sheboygan, effective June 17, 1980. (39059)

6/17/80 – Associate Pastor, St. Dominic, Sheboygan, WI

3/13/81 Sampon letter to Neuberger appointing him Temporary Administrator of St. Dominic’s Parish in Sheboygan, effective March 13, 1981. (39060)

3/13/81 – Temporary Administrator, St. Dominic’s Parish, Sheboygan, WI

6/9/81 Janicki letter to Neuberger appointing him Pastor at St. John Neumann Parish in Waukesha, effective July 1, 1981. (38949)

7/1/81 – Pastor, St. John Neuman Parish, Waukesha, WI

- 5/1/82 Neuberger letter to Chaplain Spear requesting he accept his resignation from the United States Army Reserve. (18854)
- 12/3/84 Gallagher letter to Neuberger requesting his parish will take on campus ministry for the city of Waukesha, including potentially Carroll College, UW-Waukesha, and WCTI. (38946)
- 3/24/87 Priests' Personnel Board letter to Neuberger extending his term of office as Pastor at St. John Neumann Parish for a period up to six years. (38945)
- 1989 Sklba received a letter from a parent reporting that Neuberger made sexual advances against their minor son. (38397)
- 1/18/89 Vicar Log Entry No. 73. Sklba met with Neuberger "in order to discuss the allegation presented to our office. I counseled spiritual direction and professional counseling if needed and concluded that no further action is possible at this time." (39128)
- 1/22/91 Sklba letter to Neuberger enclosing letter from attorney Paul Reilly that was sent to the Archbishop. Len spoke with the man by phone, and it was handed over to Sklba for further response as judged necessary. Sklba stated that he figured the phone call itself was an adequate response and nothing further was required. (18845)
- Vicar Log Entry No. 130. Sklba spoke with Neuberger about allegations from Attorney Paul Reilly and was told that an extremely different situation had taken place. (39128)
- 11/12/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 695. Sklba received a call from a man that was sexually abused by Neuberger when he was 13-16 years old. Neuberger denied the allegations. (39128) (38395) (18894)
- 4/7/93 Weakland letter to Neuberger appointing him Pastor of St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish in Milwaukee, effective June 22, 1993. (38923)
- 5/11/93 Vicar Log Entry No. 293. Lawsuit filed against Neuberger, St. Boniface, and the Archdiocese. (39126)
- 5/14/93 Vicar Log Entry No. 303. Sklba had a conversation with Neuberger about leaving the parish and Neuberger expressed his desire to stay even if the lawsuit became public. (39126)

6/23/93 – Pastor, St. Catherine of Alexandria, WI

- 7/7/93 Vicar Log Entry No. 438. Neuberger should not have unsupervised contact with minors. Someone on-site will be informed in order to provide on-site counseling. (39126)

- 9/28/93 Betty Kaczkowski received a phone call from a reporter at the Milwaukee Sentinel who stated that a lawsuit had been filed alleging sexual abuse of a minor by Neuberger while at St. Boniface. (38493)
- 9/29/93 Strategies for Emergency Action/Intervention. Indicates two individuals reporting abuse. Neuberger wants to fight their cases and says one person was adult. (39070-71)
- 10/13/93 Handwritten notes indicate a crisis team convened to respond to third lawsuit. “[R]estrictions – no contact w/ child” (39077-78)
- Piasecki Entry for File of Neuberger. Indicates meeting of crisis team. Neuberger maintained there is no substance to the first two complaints and that one, in fact, was a fraud perpetrated against him. In the other case he maintained that sexual contact had happened as an adult. (38408)
- 10/14/93 Handwritten notes indicate need to contact Neuberger and ask him to step down as pastor of St. Catherine. (39077)
- 10/15/93 Notes from meeting of October 15 outlining Neuberger’s assignments and incidents of misconduct. (50684-50699)
- 10/19/93 Vicar Log Entry No. 622. Sklba spoke with Ed Laskowski to confidentially inform him of the lawsuits and to indicate some of the pastoral restrictions requested. (39125)
- 10/20/93 “Privileged Information” – Psychological evaluation of Neuberger began. Final report to be given to the Archbishop. (38419)
- 10/29/93 Sklba letter to Neuberger stating that it is best to refrain from unsupervised contact with minors and no individual counseling until the legal matters are resolved. (18841)
- 10/30/93 Neuberger Chronology:
 -Minor seminary: slept in same bed with minors
 -Major seminary: slept in bed with minors and woke to child masturbating him
 -Summer of 1963: took 3 or 4 high school kids on a houseboat and shared a bed “with somebody.” Denies sexual contact.
 -St. Boniface: admits to having sex with [redacted] as a minor a dozen times, admits to sex with adults, admits to inviting kids out of the confessional to discuss confession if sexual issues were part of confession, admits to minors staying overnight many times
 -Messmer High School: asked to resign by Paul Esser after incident of girl having sexual contact with boy in the closet.
 -St. Gall’s: foster child, others of gang of six from Boniface move in
 -High School: Admits to incident with minor in 1977, drank beer and smoked pot. 1977: Starts frequenting Juneau Park and having sex in the bushes
 -Campus Ministry, Parkside: Had five foster children living with him. Denies having sex with any of them.

-St. Francis DeSales: Denies sex with anybody. Asked to be reassigned after difficulties.

-St. Dominic: Has group of 4 minors. Denies sex. Hangs out in the steam room and sauna at the Y in Sheboygan. Picks up hitchhikers to have sex with him.

-St. John Neumann: Frequents gay bars with classmate. Had two long term relationships that started in about 1982

-St. Catherine of Siena: Denies sexual contact with anyone at parish. (19025-27)

11/2/93 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Sexual Misconduct by Neuberger. (38383-38403) (38397)

11/4/93 Strategies for Emergency Action/Intervention. Contains list of options for Neuberger, including: 1) ask him to voluntarily not function; 2) administrative leave; 3) ask him to resign. Indicates a letter to parish stating, "because of public allegations and lawsuits because of misconduct prior to his last two assignments." Also states, "We assigned him to St. Catherine's: questionable historical pieces . . . Mike denied . . . no evidence of minors from earlier history." (39068-69)

Strategies for Emergency Action/Intervention indicates who will work on parish intervention, send formal statements, etc. (39075-76)

Cusack memo to "Emergency Intervention" Committee indicating action steps to take regarding Neuberger, requesting that he take a voluntary leave of absence from the parish. (39073-74)

Weakland letter to Neuberger requesting he take a leave of absence from his assignment as Pastor of St. Catherine Parish effective immediately. (53734-35)

Vicar Log Entry No. 670. Neuberger agreed to withdraw from his pastoral responsibilities. (39124)

11/4/93 – Personal Leave of Absence (54154)

11/5/93 Sklba letter to St. Catherine parish informing them that in view of the recent lawsuits and public allegations of misconduct, Neuberger has chosen to withdraw from his pastoral responsibilities. (39072)

Vicar Log Entry. Neuberger is on personal leave. The parishes of St. Catherine's and St. John Neumann have received bulletin announcements regarding Neuberger. (38970)

11/9/93 Gallagher memo to Piasecki discussing a meeting at St. Catherine's Parish regarding Neuberger. Conclusions indicate that priests with allegations pending should not be on active assignment in the parish. (19340-41)

1/19/94 Vicar Log Entry No. 79. They received a copy of the Order of Dismissal against Neuberger. (39123)

- 1994 Coordination of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Response to Sexual Abuse. (53594-95)
- 2/9/94 Vicar Log No. 172. Neuberger on a leave of absence until the matter of his allegations is decided. The Archdiocese will provide him with a retirement supplement and full housing with an additional \$547.50 for January housing. (39122)
- 2/18/94 Weakland letter to parishioner indicating he takes allegations seriously and they are trying to handle the matter involving Neuberger correctly. (18647) Letter is in response to a letter from a parishioner who states that she believes that the allegations against Neuberger are false.
- 2/26/94 Vicar Log Entry No. 90. An additional lawsuit has been filed. (39122)
- 4/27/94 Weakland statement that the Archdiocese is trying to address the issue of consequences of any kind of sexual abuse. Project Benjamin is the first response and guidelines, "The Archdiocesan Response to Sexual Abuse" were drawn up. (53587)
- 9/2/94 Weakland letter to Ward indicating Neuberger will not be reinstated nor considered for a ministerial assignment without long-term evaluation and inpatient treatment. Neuberger continues to have difficulty accepting Weakland's request that he submit his resignation. (18815)
- 3/10/95 Cusack memo to Weakland. Indicates meeting with Father Greg Ingels, Neuberger's canonical advisor. Neuberger thinks that since no formal process has been initiated against him, there must be no substance to the allegations. (56046)
- 4/6/95 Vicar Log Entry No. 240. Sklba received notice from the Chancery staff that Neuberger was listed as working at the Vliet office of the Milwaukee Achiever Program providing help managing the center as it addresses Personal Tutoring and ESL (English as a second language). (39120)
- January 1995 Proposed Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release between the Archdiocese and Neuberger offering to pay Neuberger \$25,000 to voluntarily leave the priesthood, resign from the office, and never function in any capacity as a Roman Catholic priest. (39243-48)
- 5/5/95 Minutes of Meeting Concerning Removal of Neuberger. Neuberger has been the subject of four allegations of sexual misconduct with minor boys. Neuberger's reputation has been lost. Some matters have been brought to light concerning Neuberger's fiscal management. For the good of the people of the parish, Neuberger should no longer serve as Pastor of St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish. (53743-44)
- 5/11/95 Weakland letter to Neuberger indicating there is canonical cause for his removal and asking Neuberger to submit his resignation by June 2, 1995. (53746)

- 5/15/95 Cusack letter to Ingels indicating the Archdiocese is offering to pay Neuberger 18 months continued coverage and a lump sum of \$25,000 to assist in his payment of insurance premiums or the establishment of funds to pay premiums provided that Neuberger is willing to sign a settlement document in which he would resign from active ministry and agree not to exercise ministry in the future. (53747-48)
- 5/30/95 Neuberger letter to Weakland indicating he is not prepared to tender his resignation. (53749)
- 7/26/95 Connell letter to Weakland summarizing the actions that have taken place in the removal of Neuberger from Saint Catherine's. Indicating Neuberger's reputation has been damaged and he could not effectively function as pastor of the parish. (53751-53)
- 7/28/95 Weakland letter to Neuberger that he is proceeding with his removal as pastor of St. Catherine's. (53754)
- 8/4/95 Sklba letter to parishioner indicating Weakland would be willing to share Neuberger's personnel file if the parishioner received Neuberger's permission and release. (39092) Woman wrote a letter on July 1, 1995 stating that parishioners who know him well believe in his innocence, legally he has not been found guilty of a crime and yet he is being forced out of the priesthood.
- 10/19/95 Weakland Decree of Removal removing Neuberger as Pastor of St. Catherine's effective immediately upon receipt of the decree. (50782)
- 12/4/95 Vicar Log Entry No. 843. Sklba received some concern that Neuberger might begin exercising public ministry at St. William Parish as a help-out. (39119)
- 12/22/95 Weakland letter to Neuberger restricting his ministries and binding him to the following obligations: to refrain from contact with minors; to cease all public ministry; to avoid all places and situations that, from past experience, have been occasions of serious temptation in the area of sexual morality. (54024)
- 5/20/96 Report of investigation of allegations of sexual misconduct, solicitation in the confessional, and abuse of ecclesiastical power by Neuberger. Report is provided to Weakland and Sklba. (50793-50808)
- 6/5/96 Vicar Log Entry No. 609. Sklba started the formal decree to inaugurate the penal process in the Archdiocesan tribunal if needed. (39119)
- 7/17/96 Weakland letter to Cardinal Ratzinger stating that Neuberger admitted to soliciting sex in the confessional. (38207-08)
- 7/19/96 Weakland letter to Neuberger imposing restrictions on his ministry, including: to refrain from all contact with minors; to cease until further notice all public exercise of ministry; and to avoid all places and situations of temptation. Additionally, faculties for the sacrament of penance are withdrawn. (54051)

- 7/23/96 Connell investigation report to Weakland. Report summarizes testimony of individuals who interviewed Neuberger regarding the allegations of sexual misconduct. Neuberger gave an “extra-judicial confession” and there has been an abuse of Neuberger’s ecclesiastical power regarding finances. (53808-53812)
- 9/5/96 List of allegations against Neuberger with the earliest incident occurring in the 1960s. (38735-36) September 5, 1996 Memo. Someone involved in sexual contact with Neuberger indicated that Sklba may have received a letter from his parents in 1981. Does not provide information on the content of the letter. (38736)
- 9/26/1996 September 26, 1996 Report. Neuberger reports that [redacted] reported Neuberger’s behavior to Father Eugene Bleidorn in 1965. Fr. Bleidorn confronted Neuberger and told him “society is not ready for this.” (38391)--
- 4/30/97 Decree of Confidentiality indicating that Canon 1455 binds tribunals and their personnel to absolute secrecy in the processing of a penal trial, a secrecy referred to as “the secret of the office.” (54077)
- 5/2/97 Weakland statement submitted to Rev. Thomas Brundage (Judicial Vicar) regarding the procedures he followed in Neuberger’s case. (53999-54003)
- Skiba statement submitted to Rev. Thomas Brundage (Judicial Vicar) regarding the procedures he followed in Neuberger’s case. (54004-54006)
- 5/14/97 Piasecki letter to [redacted] indicating they have initiated a canonical process seeking the dismissal of Neuberger from the clerical state. The Archdiocese feels an obligation to offer whatever kind of assistance is necessary. (32582-83)
- 5/16/97 Weakland letter to Brundage indicating no allegations were brought to his attention before 1993 and that he knew Neuberger had been without an assignment for some time and it ended in a suit filed against his predecessor. (54013)
- 6/5/97 Meeting with [redacted] and Piasecki. Meeting was in regards to incidents of sexual abuse by Neuberger that occurred in the 1960s. Individual ran into Neuberger when he was pumping gas and unassigned. The individual was under the impression that this was due to someone reporting on Neuberger’s behavior to the Chancery office. (32584-86)
- 7/1/97 Deposition of [redacted] regarding Neuberger. Woman reported to Fr. Memmel some kind of incident where [redacted] was involved with Neuberger. [Redacted] was 17, 18 or 19 at the time. While Neuberger was at St. Phillip, she saw kids in the house drinking alcohol. (53346-48) (53351)
- Testimony of [redacted] regarding Neuberger. Neuberger engaged him in inappropriate sexual misconduct after Catholic Social Services placed him with Neuberger. [Redacted] told his social worker and he went to another place. (53354-55)

- Deposition of [redacted]. An individual sought counseling from Neuberger and Neuberger made sexual advances. The deponent did not report this to the Archdiocese because it came to him second hand. (53623; 53626)
- 8/5/97 During testimony, Fr. William Stanfield testified that he received a report from someone in their mid-30s in 1988 or 1989 that Neuberger sexually molested a child while at St. Boniface. Stanfield reported it to Sklba who confronted Neuberger and asked that Neuberger seek spiritual direction and possibly professional counseling. (18926)
- 8/30/97 Sklba letter to Judicial Vicar indicating the first report he received about Neuberger was in 1989. At that time, he would have restricted faculties or taken further action if he thought there was any danger to himself or others. To the best of Sklba's recollection he had only a generic issue and limited information available to him. (53646-47)
- 9/9/97 Piasecki letter to [redacted]. Acknowledging that his lawsuit against the Archdiocese and Neuberger was dismissed, but that the Archdiocese would like to offer them an opportunity to tell their story in the Church's trial against Neuberger. (30194)
- 10/15/97 Settlement and Pierringer Release Agreement between St. Boniface, [redacted], and the Archdiocese for \$15,000. (30901-30906)
- 3/3/98 Sentence dismissing Neuberger from the clerical state. (38630-42; 38643-44)
- 3/26/98 Vicar Log No. 204. Sklba reports that a woman called expressing confusion after having been told by a woman at the Chancery that Neuberger was awaiting assignment and now learning of the recent canonical development. (39118)
- 4/3/98 Brundage letter to Schneider indicating that Neuberger violated a penal precept by entering the property of St. John Neumann Church in Waukesha and as a result, his monthly paycheck will be suspended. (39149)
- 7/12/00 Vicar Log Entry No. 642. Hornacek urged that a letter be sent to Rome to learn of an update on the Neuberger case. Nothing has been heard in more than two years. (18882)
- 3/2/01 Weakland letter to the Sacred Roman Rota explaining that the penalty (of dismissal from the clerical state) imposed upon Neuberger was not too severe because each of those abused by Neuberger suffered horrendously because of the sexual abuse. (50630-31)
- 8/30/03 Dolan letter to Cardinal Ratzinger indicating Neuberger's case began in 1996, was sent to the Sacred Roman Rota on appeal in 1998, and it was transferred to the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith in March 2001. Dolan desires a quick, just, and reassuring conclusion to the protracted case. (50643)

- 1/1/04 Dolan letter to [redacted] indicating dispute resolution services will be available in January, Catholic Charities is offering a support group, financial assistance with psychotherapy remains available, and he is continuing to meet with victim-survivors. (30876-77)
- 1/14/04 Dolan letter regarding dismissal of Neuberger from the canonical state. States that Neuberger is provided with compensation equivalent to a retired priest and is under the most restrictive administrative penal precepts applied to public ministry. (50648-49)
- 7/8/04 Dolan letter to [redacted] indicating that in line with the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People, he has authorized the release of names of priests who are now or would have been restricted from all priestly ministries. (32539)
- 7/9/04 Definitive Sentence from Pope John Paul II indicating Neuberger should be deprived of any office and the faculty of celebrating mass privately remains with the consent of the Bishop. (50664-75)
- 8/16/04 Confidential Memorandum to Dolan. Indicates Neuberger's guilty determination regarding some acts was overturned. (50658-59)
- 9/2/04 Dolan letter to Dean of Roman Rota indicating he is awaiting a full decision regarding Neuberger and that a decision will guide his next steps. (50660)
- 7/6/07 Dolan letter to His Excellency Antoni Stankiewicz asking again for a conclusion to Neuberger's case. (50661)
- 12/4/07 Confidential Memo to Dolan regarding Neuberger providing a translation of the execution of Neuberger decision. Memo indicates Dolan can still enforce all precepts, but will have to specifically consent to Neuberger celebrating Mass in "private." It is within Dolan's executive power not to provide the consent. (50662-63)
- 1/24/08 Dolan letter to Neuberger indicating that in accord with the judgment of the Roman Rota, he is enclosing continued restrictions. (38915)
- Dolan decree restricting Neuberger from contact with minors, to cease all public ministry, and to avoid all places, persons, and situations that have been the focus of or substantively associated with, the allegations adjudicated in the penal process. (38914)
- 9/2/10 ListECKI letter to Neuberger continuing the restrictions imposed by Dolan and indicating his name will remain on the Archdiocese's website among priests restricted from ministry. (50682)
- Undated Gallagher note to Piasecki indicating they'll have to do something with John Neuman Parish as well as St. Catherine's in terms of "listening" sessions. (19339)