

DIOCESE	Milwaukee
NAME OF ORDINARY	Timothy M. Dolan
CDF PROT. N. (if available)	
NAME OF CLERIC	Donald R. Peters

PERSONAL DETAILS OF THE CLERIC	Date of Birth	March 30, 1925	Age	80
	Ordination	May 27, 1950	Years of ministry	43
ORIGINAL DIOCESE OF INCARDINATION		Milwaukee		
MINISTRY IN/TRANSFER TO OTHER DIOCESE		In retirement, lives 6 months of the year in Florida and had assisted in parishes there until all ministry was restricted and the bishop there informed of his situation		
CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE CLERIC		██████████ Cascade, WI ██████████ Lakeland, FL		
PROCURATOR (include original signed mandate)		He has sought canonical advice from J. Michael Ritty, JCL		
CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE PROCURATOR		██████████		
ASSIGNMENTS				
Year	Parish	Location	Appointment	
1950	St. Michael	Milwaukee	Assistant Pastor	
1950	St. Clement	Sheboygan	Assistant Pastor	
1960	St. Mary	Hales Corners	Assistant Pastor	
1962	St. Patrick	Fond du Lac	Assistant Pastor	
1967	Catholic Memorial High School	Waukesha	Faculty	
1969	St. Paul	Milwaukee	Associate Pastor	
1969	St. Patrick	Fond du Lac	Pastor	
1971	St. Mary	Sheboygan Falls	Pastor	
1977	St. Clement	Sheboygan	Pastor	
1993	Retired			

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE CLERIC				
Year	Victim	Age	Imputable Acts	Denunciation
1962	Anonymous call to Sheboygan District Attorney	NA	"Inappropriate behavior"	1992
1963	Anonymous call to Chancery	NA	"Sexual abuse"	1992
1959-1960	██████████	15-16	Showing pornography and genital fondling	2002
1971	Not given	NA	Not specified	1971
CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CLERIC				
Year	Type/Case	Conviction	Sentence (include copies of civil documents)	
2002	Sheriff executed search warrant and seizure of computer; criminal interview with admission of three instances of abuse	Cases all beyond statute of limitations		
MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE DIOCESE				
Year				
1971	Archbishop William Cousins received a letter from Father Peters in which he makes reference to the need for a speedy transfer of assignment as recommended by Auxiliary Bishop Leo Brust as "the prudent way" given circumstances. A second note was sent to Bishop Brust stating that nothing should be committed to writing and no letter sent to those concerned. Archbishop Cousins transferred Father Peters to a new assignment a month later.			
1992	Father Peters informed of anonymous calls. No investigation because of anonymity.			
1993	Father Peters requested and received early retirement.			
1999	Diocese of Orlando informed of allegations from 1992 and ministry there restricted.			
2002	Precept issued restricting public exercise of ministry upon admission of at least three incidents of sexual abuse of minors.			
2004	Father Peters informed that travel to another diocese could not continue due to lack of monitoring possibilities. He requests voluntary laicization rather than limitations on travel. He will be provided with a monetary grant to assist with any health care needs. This proposal was handled by his canonical consultant.			
SUSTENANCE PROVIDED BY THE DIOCESE TO THE CLERIC				
Father Peters receives a monthly pension and will continue to do so if laicized as this is a qualified self-contributory plan. He will be provided with a lump sum to assist in any health care needs he may have beyond social insurance.				

RESPONSE/RECOURSE MADE BY THE CLERIC	
Year	
1971	Brought the matter to the Auxiliary Bishop and sought a transfer.
1992	Said he did not know what the callers were talking about.
2002	Admitted sexual contact with [REDACTED] and wrote letter of apology to him. Stated that the incidents were in the course of sex education. Admitted to Sheboygan sheriff and Vicar for Clergy that there were two or three other cases from his time in Fond du Lac but would not go into more detail.
BISHOP'S VOTUM	
This has been a difficult case to conclude. There is an admission of guilt in the one detailed case and spontaneous admission of two or three other cases with no details. Under other circumstances, Father Peters would be asked to live out his life in prayer and penance. This would call for monitoring of his activities which cannot be done if he spends six months of the year in Florida. Given the options available to him, Father Peters has decided that he will choose voluntary laicization rather than restriction on travel.	

REV. DONALD R. A. PETERS
[REDACTED]
CASCADE, WI 53011-0198

JULY 29, 2005

His Holiness Benedict XVI
The Vatican
Vatican City State

Your Holiness:

After much prayerful consideration, I now request from you a dispensation from the obligations connected with the priesthood and from celibacy. I ask to be returned to the lay state.

I have been placed on administrative leave by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for sexual misconduct involving minors. I have had to deal with these allegations since 2002. I have been retired for a number of years now and am 80 years old. The fact that this sexual misconduct has been brought to the attention of both archdiocesan and civil authorities makes it unlikely that I can ever serve in active ministry again. While I do not believe that every aspect of allegations presented by the archdiocese is accurate, I admit that some are.

This request is not a quick solution to a temporary problem. Because of the nature of the allegations made against me there is no hope of ever returning to ministry. I find no alternative but to request laicization.

I am fully aware that my decision to return to lay status, if approved by the Holy See is permanent and final, without hope of eventual re-admittance to priestly ministry.

I do have some health concerns. However, I have been assured by the diocese that they will assist me if needed. I have been assured that my pension will continue.

I solemnly swear to the truth of all the above information.

My curriculum vitae is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



Reverend Donald Peters

Curriculum Vitae

Born: March 30, 1925, Kenosha, WI.
 Baptized: St. Mark, Kenosha, WI.
 Communion & Confirmation: St. Mark, Kenosha, WI.
 Grade School: 8 years, St. Mark, Kenosha, WI
 Middle School: 1 year, Lincoln School, Kenosha, WI
 High School: 1 year, Mary D. Bradford H.S., Kenosha, WI
 High School: 2 years, St. Francis Minor Seminary, St. Francis WI
 College: 2 years St. Francis Minor Seminary, St. Francis, WI (Philosophy)
 Seminary Theology: 4 years St. Francis Major Seminary, St. Francis, WI
 Ordination: May 27, 1950, Cathedral St. John Evangelist, Milwaukee, WI
 Assignments: 1950 - 60 ST. CLEMENT'S, SHEBOYGAN, WI - Assistant
 1960 - 62 ST. MARY, HALES CORNERS, WI - Assistant
 1962 - 67 ST. PATRICK'S, FOND DU LAC, WI - Assistant
 1967 - 69 CATHOLIC MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, WAUKESHA, WI teach
 FOR SEVERAL SUMMER SCHOOLS AT MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE
 SCHOOL IN GUIDANCE & COUNSELING
 1969 - 71 ST. PATRICK'S, FOND DU LAC, W - Pastor
 1971 - 77 ST. MARY'S, SHEBOYGAN FALLS, WI - Pastor
 1977 - 93 ST. CLEMENT'S, SHEBOYGAN, WI - Pastor
 1993 RETIREMENT

FAMILY: 1958 - Mother Died
 1976 - Dad Died

My 76 year old sister and I are the only family. She left the SSSF and married and now is a widow. She is near Poverty and I am supporting her for many of her needs. When with the nuns they did not have Social Security, she has some of her husbands and thus has medicare, but has to purchase a supplementary Health Insurance program. She has lived in Florida for over 20 years.

My Health: Upper tooth plate, many years ago.
 Lower teeth, five front teeth remain
 Right knee, total replacement
 Diabetes, many years, pills and diet are helping to regulate.
 High Blood Pressure, pills
 Eyes: glasses, both had Cataracts removed
 Ears: hearing aids in both
 Am on Medicare & Archdiocesan Insurance Program

06/28/2002
SQADMSDINCIDENT DETAIL PRINT
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPT

TEXT INFORMATION

Part 8

NARRATIVE.: 1 by S091 EPPING, THOMAS 06/25/2002
ORIGINAL DICTATION: ss

On Tuesday, 6/25/02, at approximately 0830 hours, I, Detective Thomas Epping, was assigned by Captain David Adams to investigate the report of a sexual assault. District Attorney Robert Wells had received a report from Barbara Ann Cusack who is the Chancellor for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The letter was dated June 15, 2002. In addition to the letter, a Sexual Abuse Intake Report was included naming a reporting person as [REDACTED], reporting that he had been molested on three separate occasions in the basement of the [REDACTED] lake home by Father Don Peters. The report states that the period of the alleged assault was 1959 through 1960. The report indicates that the victim, [REDACTED] had been abused when he was 16-years old. The report also states that Father Peters had shown [REDACTED] slides of young men in various stages of dress.

A check of the phone book lists a Reverend D. Peters at [REDACTED] Cascade, Wisconsin, phone [REDACTED]. A check of the records at the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department lists a Donald R. Peters, dob 3/30/25 at [REDACTED] Cascade, Wisconsin. Driver's license number, according to the Sheriff's Department information lists [REDACTED] Wisconsin Driver's License.

A check with the Wisconsin Registration lists Donald A. Peters, m/w, dob 3/30/25, 5'9", 190-pounds, brown hair, brown eyes, with an address of [REDACTED] Cascade, Wisconsin. It also states in the comment on the driving record, a former name of Donald R. Peters.

A check of the residence at [REDACTED] shows a wood-slatted, what appears to be one-story, house with an outbuilding. The color of the wood-slatted building is brown. Also observed on the residence, was a sign that states "Peters' Place" with the address [REDACTED] on the residence. The residence was viewed on 6/25/02 at approximately 1347 hours.

A check with the post office reveals information that a Donald Peters does live at that address. The postmaster also stated that this person was a priest and the postmaster also stated that is where the priest's father used to live and his name was [REDACTED]. This information coincides with the information received on the initial referral from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Also parked at the residence at [REDACTED] was a 1996 Ford 4-door, white, expires 02, listed to Donald A. Peters at [REDACTED] Cascade, Wisconsin.

On Thursday, 6/26/02 at approximately 0915 hours, I, Detective Thomas Epping, made telephone contact with [REDACTED]

TEXT INFORMATION

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[REDACTED] In speaking with Mr. [REDACTED] about Father Donald Peters, [REDACTED] explained that he disclosed to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee that Father Peters had molested him when he was a teenager. Initially, he had been told by the personnel at the Archdiocese that they knew nothing about Father Peters molesting, but then on the second contact a couple of weeks later with [REDACTED] the Archdiocese stated that it had received reports.

[REDACTED] stated he was 49-years old when he first disclosed to a counselor about the abuse by Father Peters. The abuse happened either in 1959 or 1960 when [REDACTED] was a sophomore attending [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] states he was a freshman in 1959. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Father Peters' father, Gus Peters, had the residence at that time. [REDACTED] s parents were [REDACTED] and his sisters were [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]'s opinion was that Father Peters at the time enjoyed touching young boys. [REDACTED] referred to him as "a son of a bitch" and he was "super slick". He said he was a boy scout leader at the time and believed he was the pastor at St. Clements in Sheboygan.

The type of assault that occurred was that Father Peters would be sitting in a chair in the basement of the cottage and would have [REDACTED] undo his pants, expose his penis and then Peters would fondle the scrotum and penis of [REDACTED] stated that Father Peters would be looking directly at him when he was doing this.

[REDACTED] did not disclose this because he believed his family would have been totally ostracized in the community if he were to have accused a Catholic priest of having touched him in the way he did.

[REDACTED] explains that he did receive a letter of apology from Peters just recently.

[REDACTED] states that he went to the Cousins' Center, which is the headquarters for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee on 05/10/02 for an interview. [REDACTED] believes that "Project Benjamin" is a project for dealing with abusive priests. [REDACTED] states he also received a letter of apology from the Archdiocese, as well as from Father Peters.

At the time of the assault in 1959 or 1960, [REDACTED] explains that he had gone to the basement of the Peters' cottage, which was finished. He had been shown slides of boys in various stages of undress by Father Peters on a projector. The assault (fondling) happened two or three times. [REDACTED] believes that Peters has not given up this sickness. The reason why [REDACTED] had talked with Father Peters at the time, was for counseling that dealt with experiencing puberty; they talked about

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erections, petting and the guilt complex of sexual encounters. They talked about sexual issues. [REDACTED] described this as a type of confession where he was actually confessing to Father Peters at the time of the fondling. [REDACTED] described that Father Peters would fondle [REDACTED] with his hands while [REDACTED] was standing in front of Peters as Peters was sitting in the chair. There was no sex act, no oral sex, or any type of intercourse. [REDACTED] goes on to explain that later on, when he was married, that Father Peters was part of his marriage. When asked how that occurred, [REDACTED] explained that he blanked out what had happened to him in the past by Father Peters, when he did get married.

[REDACTED] did not believe that Peters had taken pictures of him. He had been shown slides by Father Peters of young boys, not girls, before and after Peters had fondled [REDACTED]. At the time, [REDACTED] was dealing with puberty and learning of sexual matters, having gone to gym class and the high school shower room, and [REDACTED] was led to believe that the interaction that Peters had with [REDACTED] was "the right thing to do as it was part of sex education" and what Father Peters was doing was one step beyond.

The last time that [REDACTED] saw the Peters' cottage was in the year 2000, when he had seen it from the lake as [REDACTED] would have gone to look at [REDACTED]

At the time of the molestation, he believed that Father Peters was doing his ministry in Sheboygan. He also knew that Father Peters was involved in boy scouts and [REDACTED] did know, personally, that Peters would have boy scouts come out to the cottage. [REDACTED]'s sister, [REDACTED] had mentioned that she had seen two boys that would come to the Peters' cottage. These two boys were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] believed that their name might have been [REDACTED]. This happened around 1962, and these boys would have been younger than [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]'s two sisters are [REDACTED], who is married to [REDACTED] and they live in [REDACTED] and are retired. His other sister is [REDACTED] and her husband is [REDACTED] and they live in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] states that both his sisters are aware of this situation he is involved in and [REDACTED] had had reservations about Father Peters and did not like him, even when they were youngsters.

Based on the information obtained, I will request a Search Warrant in an attempt to locate any evidence to substantiate the information provided by [REDACTED]. Based on past training, it is believed that a person involved in the sexual abuse of young boys or pedophilia tends to keep pictures, letters and memorabilia. Based on that, I request a search warrant for the Donald Peters' residence at [REDACTED] Cascade, Wisconsin.

July 5, 1950

The Reverend Donald R. Peters

Kenosha, Wisconsin

My dear Father Peters:

I hereby appoint you to assist the Reverend Alex W. Zuern, pastor of St. Michael's Parish, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. You will please to report for duty to Father Zuern on Friday, July 7, 1950.

Wishing you every grace and blessing and success in your new field of labor, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM020258

October 4, 1950

The Reverend Donald R. Peters
[REDACTED]
Milwaukee 5, Wisconsin

My dear Father Peters:

I hereby appoint you to assist the Reverend John J. Carroll, pastor of St. Clement's Parish, Sheboygan, Wisconsin. You will please to report for duty to Father Carroll on Friday, October 6, 1950.

Wishing you every grace and blessing you desire in your new field of labor, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Milwaukee.

COPY

ADOM020259

September 24, 1955

The Reverend Donald R. Peters
St. Clement's Rectory
[REDACTED]
Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Dear Father Peters:

You are hereby appointed the regional
director of the Catholic Youth Organization in
Division 7, Sheboygan.

It is suggested that you contact the
Reverend Philip Schwab, Archdiocesan Director of
the C.Y.O., for the details of this appointment.

Wishing you every grace and blessing,
I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM020266

June 21, 1960

The Rev. Donald R. Peters

Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Dear Father Peters:

By this letter I herewith transfer you from your position as assistant at St. Clement's Parish, Sheboygan, and appoint you assistant at St. Mary's Parish, Hales Corners. This appointment is effective Thursday, July 7, 1960, on which date you are kindly asked to report.

With the warmest of personal regards and wishing you God's choicest blessings in your new field of endeavor, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM020275

Father Don A. Peters

Hales Corners, Wis.

May 31, 1962

Most Rev. William E. Cousins
2000 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee 3, Wis.

Your Excellency,

From our conversation of May 23, 1962, your request that I put this in writing, after much prayer, prayerful thought and investigations, I humbly submit the following for your kind consideration.

God gave talents to each of us, I pray that I might use mine for His greater honor and glory. I feel that my interests are much in the youth program: Guidance and counseling in the High School program; and work in the CYO program. You indicated these as specialized work.

I have inquired at Marquette University about application in working toward a Masters Degree in Education with a major in Guidance and Counseling. North-Central, as you know, is now requiring Guidance M.A. in High Schools. If you decide on advanced study, would it be full time or part time? Some educators seem to feel that full time study would be better. Would a try at summer school be worth a small test to see if I can get back to study?

I feel that I am willing to stay at St. Mary, Hales Corners for another year. I would be interested in the once a week teaching and counseling that I have been doing at Pius XI High School. Brother Dan and Brother Leo at Don Bosco indicated that they would be most interested in having me do more guidance work at Don Bosco. In our parish school I am most willing and happy to teach in the grade school, however on a better balance, as you indicated at the fall conference of Priests.

ADOM020276

The following points seem very trivial to me, but are mentioned to indicate my interest in the parish. If weddings and minor duties in the parish are given to me I would like to get them sooner after the initial pastoral interview, and arrange to fit my own schedule. When people come to the door and ask for me by name, that they have the opportunity to see me without all the questions.

To go to school part-time could be of benefit in the school work and even in the contacts in the CYO divisional program with the many youth in various parishes and to the Priests in the division to help them help their youth. I have received requests from Priests and from many young-men to counsel and guide them, from many diverse sources, even requests from an occasional student at the Major Seminary.

If you so choose to move me, I believe I could spend more time in getting the M.A., working toward High School work, possibly keeping the divisional job which would be benefitted by the education credits.

Regarding your request of names of some Priests to help Msgr. Schwab in the CYO and CCD, you might consider some of these: in the ten to fifteen year group, Fathers William Knoernschild, or Charles Verhalen; in the five to ten year group, Fathers Donald Daleke, Don Elverman, or Fred Schramm; also others who have been and are divisional directors. In special CCD work I don't know all those who are teaching the course, but these might be considered. Possibly Father Joseph Konkell would know of some others.

Respectfully your servant in Christ,

Donald A. Peters

Donald A. Peters

August 16, 1962

The Reverend Donald R. Peters
St. Mary's Parish
████████████████████
Hales Corners, Wisconsin

Dear Father Peters:

By this letter I herewith transfer you from your position as assistant at St. Mary's Parish, Hales Corners, and appoint you assistant at St. Patrick's Parish, Fond du Lac, effective Wednesday, August 29, 1962. You will kindly report on that date to the pastor, Father George C. Eilers.

With the warmest of personal regards and wishing you God's choicest blessings in your new field of endeavor, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

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ADOM020278

June 16, 1967

The Reverend Donald R. Peters
St. Patrick Parish

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54933

Dear Father Peters:

By this letter I herewith transfer you from your position as curate at St. Patrick Parish, Fond du Lac, and appoint you to the Faculty of Catholic Memorial High School, Waukesha, effective Tuesday, June 27, 1967. You are asked to report to Father John Hanley as to further instruction on your assignment.

With the warmest of personal regards and wishing you God's choicest blessings in your new field of endeavor, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

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ADOM020282

May 23, 1969

C
O
P
Y

Reverend Donald R. Peters
Catholic Memorial High School
████████████████████
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186

Dear Father Peters:

Following the recommendation of the Personnel Board regarding your assignment, I herewith transfer you from your present position on the Faculty of Catholic Memorial High School, Waukesha, and appoint you Associate Pastor at St. Paul Parish, Milwaukee, effective June 17, 1969. You will kindly report on that date to the Pastor, Father Stanley Bartnicki.

With the warmest of personal regards and wishing you God's choicest blessings, I am

Faternally Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM020294

July 31, 1969

Reverend Donald R. Peters
St. Paul Parish
[REDACTED]
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207

Dear Father Peters:

Following the recommendation of the Personnel Board, I herewith transfer you from your present position as Associate Pastor at St. Paul Parish, Milwaukee, and officially appoint you Pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Fond du Lac, effective August 19, 1969.

You are asked to make the required Profession of Faith in the Chancery office before August 19th.

It affords me great pleasure to make this appointment and I assure you that my prayers are joined with yours as we ask God to bless your labors in this new field.

Faternally Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM020296

*Fr. Don A. Peters
St. Patrick*

Feb. 4, 1971

Dear Bishop Brust,

I saw Don Reiff on Mon. 1st. He said he would talk to you and see if you thought a letter of any kind should be sent.


I now want to caution on sending a letter. Not too soon and be most careful of what kind of written promises are made.

The head of the religion Dept. told me some things on Tues. 2nd. I phoned you, but you were out and this is about all I want to put in writing.

Thank you,

Don




FOND DU LAC, WIS. 54935

ADOM020297

Bishop Prus - this is the letter I sent in this same mail - THANK YOU! Don Peters ✓

ST. PATRICK'S RECTORY

FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN 54938

January 28, 1971

Most Rev. William C. Cousins
2000 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, Wis. 53233

Your Excellency,

I humbly request a transfer from St. Patrick Parish, Fond du Lac and request to be assigned to a different pastorate.

My reasons are personal. I have been in consultation with Bishop Prus regarding this move and its reasons. We have talked openly and he agrees from his years of Chancery experience that this would be the prudent way.

I humbly remind you of a prior request, if it is possible to be considered. That prior request is the possibility of an appointment within the northern half of the diocese. The possible driving time of one hour or more to Cascade where I have no car service. He visited the doctor in Friesland on Jan. 25th and received a report of an enlarged heart, and pills given to relieve his heart pains.

This transfer should probably take place as soon as is able to be implemented, and not wait until the June appointments. Since there have been some recent resignations and a recent death, this could mean several moves in the Archdiocese.

I can be available for an interview.

Respectfully yours,

Donald H. Peters

cc: Fr. Donald E. Reiff,
Secretary Priests' Personnel Board

ADOM020298

March 17, 1971

Reverend Donald R. Peters ✓
St. Patrick Parish
[REDACTED]
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935

Dear Father Peters:

Following the recommendation of the Personnel Board, I herewith transfer you from your present position as pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Fond du Lac, and officially appoint you Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Sheboygan Falls, effective April 13, 1971.

Permit me to advise you that you are dispensed from making the Profession of Faith as is required by Canon Law for newly appointed pastors.

It affords me great pleasure to make this appointment and I assure you that my prayers are joined with yours as we ask God to bless your labors in this new field.

Faternally Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM020299

October 27, 1977

The Reverend Donald R. Peters ✓
St. Mary Parish

████████████████████
Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin 53085

Dear Father Peters:

Following the recommendation of the Personnel Board, I herewith transfer you from your present position as Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Sheboygan Falls, and officially appoint you Pastor of St. Clement Parish, Sheboygan, effective November 15, 1977.

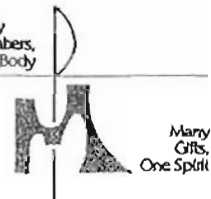
Permit me to advise you that you are dispensed from making the Profession of Faith, as is required by Canon Law for newly appointed pastors.

It affords me great pleasure to make this appointment, and I assure you that my prayers are joined with yours as we ask God to bless your labors in this new field.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Apostolic Administrator of Milwaukee

ADOM020304



Office of the Chancellor

December 11, 1998

Most Rev. Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
P. O. Box 07912
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207-0912

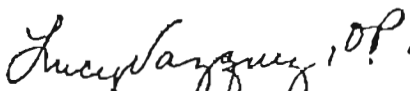
Dear Archbishop Weakland:

Fr. Don Peters, a retired priest of your Diocese, lives in our Diocese during the winter, and has expressed interest in helping out at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Lakeland.

It is the practice of our Diocese to seek a clear endorsement from the Diocese of origin and any other diocese in which a priest may have ministered. I would be most grateful if you would complete the enclosed form and return it to me. Once we receive it we will be glad to complete the arrangements for Fr. Peters' ministry.

Thanking you for your attention to this matter, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Sister Lucy Valquez, O.P.
Chancellor

LV:aj
Enclosure

FR. DON A. PETERS

24

DECEMBER 15, 1999

MOST REV. REMBERT G. WEAKLAND, O.S.B.
3501 S. LAKE DR
P.O. BOX 07912
MILWAUKEE, WI 53207-0912

DEAR ARCHBISHOP WEAKLAND,

I am in receipt of Bishop Sklbas' letter to me concerning faculties in the Diocese of Orlando. His letter indicates that there was a consultation so that you could "proceed in a proper fashion for all parties concerned".

I was told by Bishop Sklba that my faculties are in order in the Milwaukee Archdiocese. Can you send a letter to me or to Bishop Dorsey of the Orlando Diocese so that I can do some "help out" in a few places in Lakeland and at the Mary Queen of Universe shrine near Orlando?

Respectfully yours,



Don Peters

ADOM020335


ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
DEPARTMENT FOR CLERGY

November 8, 2004

Most Reverend Norbert L. Dorsey
Diocese of Orlando
P.O. Box 1800
Orlando FL 32802

Dear Bishop Dorsey,

This is to inform you that Fr. Donald Peters, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, is currently residing with his sister in your diocese, and has a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse of a minor against him. All faculties have been withdrawn and he is under precept. His mailing address is [redacted] Lakeland FL 33804-1245 - his winter residence is located at [redacted] Lakeland, FL. The pastor of the local parish is aware of his presence. Fr. Peters will return to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in April, 2005.

In the Lord Jesus,

Rev. Curt J. Frederick

Very Reverend Curt J. Frederick
Vicar for Clergy

*For
Fr. Peter's
file*

Of 8 rel order

4 returned

5th promised to do

3 waiting to hear

FR DON A PETERS

January 4, 2004

TO: Fr. Joe Hornacek & Bishop Dick Sklba,

I am writing this down and will adapt and change it before it is to be sent out. This might take several weeks. I have been praying for an increase to my memory since the accuser brought my case to the public. My memory needed a lot of refreshing and I know that all has not returned.

I don't know how much to put in writing. The kindly police detective had a good conversation with me, but it became too public. I talked too much and didn't realize it. The Sheriff took my computer and had it returned within a week. They found nothing to use against me. I think the only "media" to write that nothing was found in my computer was the "SHEBOYGAN PRESS". I was in some degree of "shock" in that conversation. Also in shock when talking with Joe H.

Some of the statements of the accuser indicate his weak memory also and a lack of continuity, but a lot of hurt. The basement in the house at [REDACTED] was not usable until the summer of 1961. The raising of the house, the concrete block walls went up during the summer of 1960. Therefore the dates are not correct. The scouts in my house at that time were youth officers who were high school juniors, seniors and early college. There was always a group of them to plan programs. There were never any "Cub Scouts" in that house. This indicates to me that the accuser did not know the various age levels of the BSA programs. There was never any wrongful actions with any of the Scouts.

Some of this indicates to me that there must have been an earlier contact for Bishop Sklba to have called me in to his office in 1993. It seems there was an anonymous tip. He told me that he never saw anything in writing from the Archbishop in those earlier years.

I am putting this in writing so that in my file in the Archdiocese, I have some of my reactions reviewed. I want this letter of some of my reactions to be kept in the file near the accusers statements.

Date of completion: Feb 22, 2004

Thank you,

Don Peters

North Address

ADOM020372

FR. DON PETERS

CASCADE, WI 53011-0198

May 22, 2002

Dear [REDACTED] -

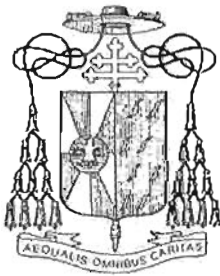
I apologize for the wrong action I did against you. I am very sorry that I am the cause of so many problems in your life. I am sorry that I performed those wrong actions.

I was at the Archdiocesan Personnel office on Tuesday, May 21 and was read your words given on or about May 3. I was contacted to come in to the office on Friday, May 17.

I pray that you be healed physically, mentally, and spiritually. God Bless you and those you work with for a positive experience.

Tory, Trust, Triumph,
Fr. Don Peters

ADOM020382



REMBERTUS GEORGIUS

Miseratione Divina et Apostolicae Sedis Gratia

Archiepiscopus Milvauchiensis

PRECEPT

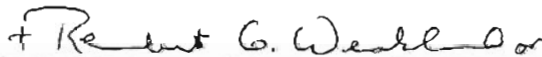
In response to the pastoral needs of this Christian community, in virtue of my authority as diocesan bishop (c. 381, §1), and in accord with the provisions of canon 49, I formally place upon Reverend Donald Peters the following obligations:

- 1) To refrain from all contact with minors, vulnerable adults, and other persons or categories of persons who have proven to be occasions of temptation in the area of sexual morality;
- 2) To cease until further notice all public ministry including the celebration of Eucharist; Eucharist may be celebrated in a private setting alone or with only another priest or priests in attendance; the celebration of any other sacraments will require explicit permission of a local ordinary in each case;
- 3) To avoid all places and situations that, from past experience, have been occasions of serious temptation in the area of sexual morality;
- 4) To cease any and all activities and relationships that may be described under the broad category of pastoral counseling;
- 5) Until further notice the faculty to hear confession is revoked.

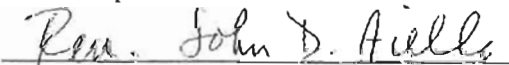
The reasons motivating this decree are the allegations of sexual activities in violation of the obligation of clerical celibacy (c. 277, §1). These restrictions are seen as necessary and prudent precautions and will remain in effect for three months from this date or until notice of their revocation. Any violations of this precept could result in penal action and this decree shall serve as canonical warning to that effect.

This decree shall be executed by means of its communication to Reverend Donald Peters by Very Reverend Joseph Hornacek.

Given this 10th day of May, 2002.



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

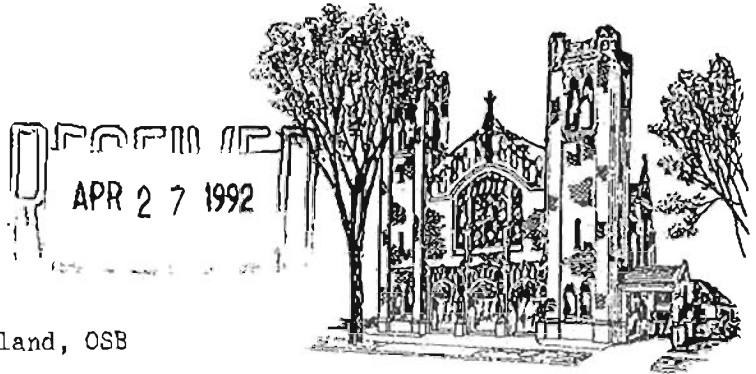


Notary

ADOM020383

SAINT CLEMENT'S PARISH HOUSE

SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN 53081-4199



April 20, 1992

The Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, OSB
P. O. Box 07912
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

Dear Archbishop,

I am writing to accept the offer of retirement from full time ministry at age 68. I recently turned 67 and for the sake of the parish and my own plans, we all need time to adjust to ideas and programs. I am most willing to continue in a temporary help-out program.

I am asking that this take effect sometime around the end of May of 1993. I will inform you of other ideas once I know you will accept this time line.

When I responded to the Priest's Personnel Board, I told them that I was thinking and praying about a decision to accept retirement at 68. Enclosed is a copy of what I sent to the priests of the District last month as District elections came due. On the front side is what was sent to the priests. On the back side is what was not sent! I wrote a long letter and decided against sending all of it to the district priests, but kept it for my own review.

I will attend the meeting being planned for May 4, 1992 from the invitation by Fr. Tom Venne and Fr. John Pulice. This will give me more information on procedures for these plans.

I have been in regular contact with my financial adviser with my I.R.A. program, Jim Schulte. I am receiving some Social Security since I reached 65 because my annual income is below the level set by them. I will receive a good amount from this each month, when I go on full time unemployed!

Sincerely yours,

Don Peters

ADOM020410

SAINT CLEMENT'S PARISH HOUSE
SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN 53081-4199



March 13, 1992

To my priest co-workers in District 9,

Please do not enter my name as the district representative. I will not accept. Thank you for letting me serve you as secretary and this interim appointment as representative.

It is good to have this job rotate. It is good to learn about the Church at different levels. I hear there might be two applicants, Thank you!

I will be 67 the end of March 1992, therefore 68 in another year. I have written the "Personnel Board" that I am seriously praying and thinking about accepting the Archbishop's offer to retire at 68. I expect to be released of parochial duties in May/June 1993. I will accept "help-out" situations, but will not be available always during a year. As of this writing I am waiting to hear whether this will be acceptable to the powers that be!

Oremus pro invicem,

ADOM020411

Several things have been happening in my life in the past couple of years. Some are very personal, and others indicate to me that the body is not responding as quickly as it used to - that the mind is not as alert. Some things have happened not just to me, but in many avenues of life itself that I cannot control, but have affected my attitudes and outlook. I am ready to accept some kind of retirement program. I do not want another full time assignment.

I have worked over the years very hard for the parish to which I have been assigned. I have given a lot of thought and leadership to various situations in the parishes. Of my 42 years in the priestly work, two of these were in Hales Corners at St. Mary. Two were at Catholic Memorial in Waukesha. About seven years were at St. Patrick in Fond du Lac. The balance of the years were spent in Sheboygan District. All of these were good enriching experiences.

I have accepted District challenges and tried to offer questions and ideas that will help the end result for parish, district, and Archdiocesan Church. Some of them have not always worked as I might have wanted, but they have brought about a result that has made programs and situations much better. Some of you (and priests gone from the district) have helped me be realistic about projects. I accepted priestly work outside the parish as recreation and hobby. These have been a great way to relax and yet accomplish positive contacts in the lives of others.

These are thoughts as I am writing. I want to share these thoughts with you. I want to thank you who are now in the District and those who have come through the District over the many years for the great priestly work that has been done.

April 17, 2002

Archbishop Weakland
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
3501 South Lake Drive
Milwaukee, WI. 53207

Dear Reverend Weakland:

I write this letter with the hope that you will understand that the events of 43 years ago will be forever etched in my mind and that it has just been the last 10 years of my life that I have been able to discuss this openly and candidly.

When I was 15 years of age Fr. Donald Peters of Sheboygan befriended me, and during that time period and as I recall on 3 separate occasions Fr. Peters manipulated me into believing that his discussions with me as they relate to my sexuality were proper and that he had my best interest in mind.

He convinced me to expose my genitals to him at which time he engaged in fondling me along with showing me slides of young teenagers in various stages of dress to include full nudity. These incidents took place at [REDACTED] cottage. [REDACTED] being Fr. Peters dad.



It is my hope that you, even though you are retiring along with your staff and fellow professionals do everything humanly possible to repair the damage done to so many.

I thank you for you in advance for taking the time to listen to me.



ADOM032405


ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
DEPARTMENT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES

April 23, 2002



Dear Mr. 

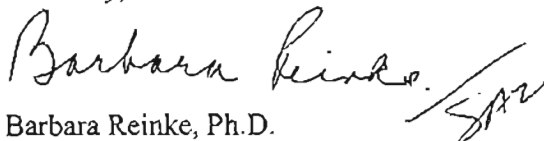
Archbishop R. Weakland has asked me to respond to your letter. I am the director of Project Benjamin, a program of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to bring healing, truth and justice to issues of sexual abuse within the Church, and a licensed psychologist.

Because Father Donald Peters is not known to us already as someone who offended against minors, it is important that I talk with you to start a detailed investigation. Obviously sexual abuse should not have occurred, and I hope you realize clearly that you were not in any way responsible. I understand that you have felt shame and it is difficult to talk about these events. As a result of our conversation, we would confront Father Peters, who is now retired, with these allegations. It is important that he face his actions and the harm he has done. We can also discuss how your life has been affected and if some outpatient psychotherapy would be helpful to you, this therapy would be paid for by Project Benjamin.

Please call me at 414-769-3436, so that we can set up a mutually convenient time to talk.

Thank you for taking this first step to report what happened. I know it took a lot of courage.

Sincerely,



Barbara Reinke, Ph.D.
Director, Project Benjamin

BR:saz

c: Archbishop R. Weakland

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL

August 29, 2005

Most Reverend Angelo Amato, SDB
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio 11
00193 Rome, Italy

Your Excellency:

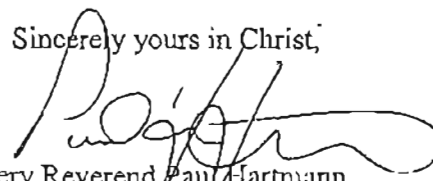
Archbishop Dolan recently prepared for your review a request for voluntary laicization by Reverend Donald Peters. Two additional items for consideration have arisen since the case was submitted. Archbishop Dolan requests that this material be added to the case file.

A copy of the police investigation from July 2002 has been obtained. The minimal admissions that were provided to the Vicar for Clergy at that time are expanded in this report. A copy of the report is enclosed.

While Father Peters denies any sexual contact with minors in the Boy Scouts, we have had a report surface that states the contrary. Mr. [REDACTED] has informed the Archdiocese of Milwaukee that, while he himself was never abused by Father Peters, he observed such abuse of another adolescent at a Boy Scout camp. He came forward to resolve his own guilt at never having reported this abuse and, therefore, having possibly exposed others to abuse. Appropriate pastoral outreach has been offered to Mr. [REDACTED]. He was unable to provide the name of the adolescent male. Since he has no potential for personal gain in coming forward, his report is deemed to be credible and non-suspect.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Very Reverend Paul Hartmann
Judicial Vicar

5



ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 8, 2005

Most Reverend Angelo Amato, SDB
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio 11
00193 Rome, Italy

Your Excellency:

In accord with the norms of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, I am submitting for your consideration the case of a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Reverend Donald Peters has been accused of acts of sexual abuse of minors. The summary of these allegations is enclosed. Father Peters has admitted that a number of these acts of sexual assault occurred.

As we have reviewed the various files, it would appear that the original problem would date back to the 1960's and 1970's. While there is record of a formal notification of a problem in 1992, the anonymous nature of the report made it difficult to address. Father was informed of the report but he said he did not know to what it referred.

However, a closer review of correspondence from that period may reveal otherwise. In 1971 Archbishop William Cousins received a letter from Father Peters in which he makes reference to the need for a speedy transfer of assignment as recommended by Auxiliary Bishop Leo Brust as "the prudent way" given circumstances. A second note was sent to Bishop Brust from Father Peters stating that nothing should be committed to writing and no letter sent to those concerned. Archbishop Cousins transferred Father Peters to a new assignment a month later.

From the vantage point of hindsight, it would appear that this correspondence indicates that some inappropriate behavior had occurred at that time. Bishop Brust was the person who handled such matters and the usual response was to quietly see that the priest left his place of assignment.

When confronted with the allegations in 2002, Father Peters spontaneously admitted that there were incidents of sexual contact with minors in his past. He made this declaration to the investigating civil authorities and to the Vicar for Clergy. On that basis, Father was placed under precept not to exercise any public ministry. In 2004, as part of the attempt to bring resolution this situation, again Father Peters admitted that there were two or three others who might come forward. His dating of those incidents of sexual contact corresponds to the letters and mid-year change of assignment in 1971. Given the number of years that Father Peters was actively involved in the Boy Scouts, there is every reason to believe that additional victims may come forward.

Most Reverend Angelo Amato
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

page 2

In the years since it was first issued, the precept has remained in place. I am of the opinion that the matter needs more concrete resolution. Given his age, I had proposed that Father Peters agree to live a life of prayer and penance while remaining under precept. He has been considering that option but knows that to do so would mean he would not have free reign to travel and live elsewhere in another diocese for six or more months of the year. He would need to remain in the Milwaukee Archdiocese to be monitored. He has been in consultation with two different canon lawyers. He has now concluded that he would rather be free to travel than to remain in the clerical state. He is choosing to seek voluntary laicization and his petition is enclosed. I have been assured by his present canonical advisor that this decision is being made freely and that he has been given sufficient counsel to make such a decision. This has not been a hasty or sudden judgement. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has paid for the services of a canonical advisor for him.

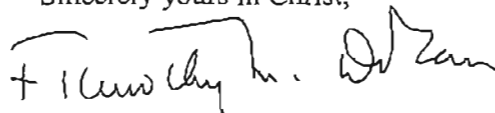
While it would have been my preference that he choose the first option given, a life of prayer and penance, he is unwilling to accept the conditions that would accompany that possibility. Given the legal liabilities, another diocese is not going to agree to monitor a priest for whom they have no responsibility. I regret that Father Peters has chosen as he has but I respect his right to do so.

Father Peters receives his full pension and will continue to do so since it is a qualified self-contributory plan. He owns a home in Wisconsin and one in Florida. Should his petition be granted, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will establish a fund from which he can draw any resources needed for additional health needs not covered by his insurance.

I look forward to your response in this matter.

With sentiments of deepest esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Dolan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "D".

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM039903

11

CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH

Prot. N.: 249/05

Father Donald R. Peters, a presbyter of this Archdiocese, has humbly petitioned for a dispensation from all the obligations connected with sacred ordination.

Our Most Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI

On the 6th day of October, 2007

Having heard the opinion of his Eminence and Most Reverend Prefect of this Congregation, has granted the request of the presbyter for the good of the Church, but with the following provisions:

1. The rescript of the dispensation, being made known by the competent Ordinary to the petitioner as soon as possible:
 - a) *becomes effective from the moment of the notification;*
 - b) *inseparably includes a dispensation from sacred celibacy and, at the same time, loss of the clerical state. The petitioner never has the right to separate those two elements, that is, to accept the first and refuse the second;*
 - c) *if the petitioner is a religious, the rescript also grants a dispensation from the vows.*
 - d) *indeed, further, it carries with it, insofar as it is necessary, absolution from censures.*
2. Notification of the dispensation can be made to the petitioner either personally, or through one delegated by the same Ordinary, or through an ecclesiastical notary, or by "registered mail." The Ordinary ought to retain one copy (of the rescript) duly signed by the petitioner in testimony of his reception of the rescript of the dispensation, and also of his acceptance of its regulations.
3. Notice of the granting of the dispensation is to be inscribed in the baptismal register of the Petitioner's parish.
4. With regard to the celebration of a canonical marriage, the norms set down in The Code of Canon Law must be applied. The Ordinary, however, should take care that the matter be discreetly handled without pomp or external display.
5. The ecclesiastical authority, to whom it belongs to notify the petitioner concerning the rescript, should earnestly exhort him to take part in the life of the People of God, in a manner consonant with his new mode of living, to give edification, and thus to show himself a most loving son of the Church. At the same time, however, he should be informed of the following points:
 - a) *the dispensed presbyter automatically loses the rights proper to the clerical state, as well as ecclesiastical dignities and offices; he is no longer bound by the other obligations connected with the clerical state;*

ADOM039919

- b) *he remains excluded from the exercise of the sacred ministry, with the exception of those functions mentioned in canons 976 and 986, §2, and, as a result, he may not give a homily nor is he able to hold a directive office in the pastoral field nor to exercise the function of parochial administrator;*
- c) *similarly, he may not discharge any function in seminaries and in equivalent institutions. In other institutions of higher studies, which are in any way whatever dependent upon ecclesiastical authority, he may not exercise the function of director;*
- d) *also, in those institutions of higher studies which are not dependent upon ecclesiastical authority, he may not teach any discipline which is properly theological or closely connected with the same;*
- e) *on the other hand, in institutions of lower studies, which are dependent upon ecclesiastical authority, he may not exercise the function of teaching a discipline which is properly theological. A dispensed presbyter is held by the same rule in teaching Religion in an institution of the same kind not dependent upon ecclesiastical authority;*

6. The Ordinary is to take care, as much as possible, lest the dispensed presbyter exhibits scandal to the faithful. Also, if there is present a danger of abuse of minors, the Ordinary after the fact of the dispensation may also publish the canonical cause.

7. At an opportune time, the competent Ordinary is to send a brief report to the Congregation on his completion of the notification, and, finally, if there should be any wonderment on the part of the faithful, he is to provide a prudent explanation.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

From the Offices of the Congregation, the 6th day of October in the year 2007.

/s/ William Cardinal LEVADA
Prefect

/s/ Angel AMATO, SDB
Titular Archbishop of Silensis
Secretary

Date of notification:

/s/ Signature of petitioner as sign of acceptance /s/ Signature of Ordinary (Delegate)


ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

January 4, 1999

Sister Lucy Vazquez OP, Chancellor
Diocese of Orlando
██████████
Orlando FL 32802-1800

Dear Sister Lucy,

Recently you wrote me asking me to fill out a form concerning Father Don Peters, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

In the twenty-one years that I have been Bishop here in Milwaukee there have been no complaints about any current behavior on his part. Back about 1992, however, when we had our first pedophilia scandals break out in Milwaukee, we did get several phone calls from men in their thirties who claimed that something had happened back when they were teenagers and Father Peters was involved in the Scout movement. None of these people were willing, though, to come forward or even give us their names. I judge there were probably two people who contacted the Chancery at that time. We were never able to follow up on the allegations and they have remained always out there unsubstantiated.

I did not simply want to fill out the form you sent, Sister, and felt it would be best that I mention to you the situation of the past. I am more than willing to do whatever you request to be of help on this -- if you want me to talk to Father Peters again or to have him come to the Chancery there in Orlando.

I hope all goes well. Many blessings.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee


ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
OFFICE OF AUXILIARY BISHOP

November 30, 1999

Rev. Donald A. Peters
██████████
Lakeland, Florida 33804-1245

Dear Father Peters:

Subsequent to our conversation earlier this fall regarding the renewal of faculties, I had the opportunity to discuss the question with Archbishop Weakland and Fr. Joseph Hornacek, as well as Dr. Cusack from the Chancery in order to proceed in a proper fashion for all parties concerned.

Since the Archbishop has indicated a willingness to make adjustments as requested, I now write to ask that you yourself initiate a letter seeking the extension of priestly faculties for your current situation in retirement. Upon receiving such a request, for the records, a response will be sent with an indication of a revised granting of faculties.

I trust that this will be a sign of new beginnings as the new millennium approaches and express my sincere thanks for your spirit of cooperation and patience in pursuing the question as raised.

Sincerely in Christ Risen,

Most Reverend Richard J. Sklba
Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee

RJS/rt

FILE COPY

COPY

December 27, 1999

Most Reverend Norbert M. Dorsey
Diocese of Orlando
██████████
Orlando, FL 32802

Dear Bishop Dorsey,

I understand that Father Donald Peters, one of our retired priests, is residing in Orlando and wishes to be available to assist at parishes as needed. He is requesting your authorization to do so.

I can attest that Father Peters is a priest in good standing in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He has the full exercise of all faculties here in the Archdiocese. I have never had any reason to limit his ministry. He has never had any canonical penalties imposed upon him.

In the interest of full candor and disclosure, I do need to tell you that there was once an anonymous phone call alleging sexual improprieties on Father's part. Father denies any such activity. A full investigation on our part surfaced no substantiation of this claim and we have no concerns in this regard. He was never removed from ministry or restricted in his exercise of faculties. I do not believe that Father Peters poses any threat to anyone.

I hope this information is helpful to you and that you will be able to make use of Father Peters' services in some way.

With every best wish for a blessed Christmas season, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM045685

COPY

June 15, 2002

Mr. Robert J. Wells
District Attorney
615 N. 6th Street
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Dear Mr. Wells,

As we indicated in previous correspondence, we will be turning over to your office any reports of alleged sexual abuse by priests that may have occurred in your county. I am enclosing an intake report in such a matter for your review. The actual site of the alleged incident may not be in your jurisdiction but Father was assigned in Sheboygan at the time it occurred. The alleged incident involves a priest who is now retired. I have reviewed our files and find that there had been one previous allegation from an anonymous caller. Father was confronted and denied any such behavior. We were not able to do any follow-up contact with the alleged victim, as there was no identity revealed. We do not know if this is the same person or not. We have not informed Father that this report is being sent to your office.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. If you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Barbara Anne Cusack
Chancellor

134. Peters, Donald
On Wednesday, March 5, 1986 I was approached by Don in the context of confirmation at his parish concerning his hope to become an associate within the next year, hopefully in Florida rather than in the Archdiocese. His health is good. I suggested the need for him to stay at St. Clement's for a while as a bridge until the time when a Spanish-speaking priest might be appointed pastor in order to bring the two communities together. I promised to explore the matter at Don's request.

RJS

✓ 669. Donald Peters
On November 4, 1992 District Attorney James Frisch reported an anonymous phone call from a slow speaking, somewhat confused gentleman who called the District Attorney at home claiming some inappropriate behavior 30 years ago by Don. The allegation was so confused and without specifics and as a result the District Attorney wanted to inform us of the matter in order to maintain good communications. I called Don to learn that he was away and left a message indicating I wished to speak with him.

The District Attorney, upon my inquiry, stated that he lost his election and we agreed that this was probably the result of the negative and incomplete information presented by Channel 12.

RJS

✓ 690. Donald Peters
On Saturday, November 7, 1992 I briefly spoke with Don to alert him to the anonymous allegation received in Sheboygan.

RJS

✓ 738. Donald Peters
On December 3, 1992 Don called asking if any further information had been received regarding the anonymous allegation. I stated that no additional conversation had occurred and told him he could continue planning to be absent for a vacation after Christmas.

RJS

✓ 260. Donald Peters
On May 3, 1994 I spoke with Don Peters who has been requested to serve for approximately two months at the Philmont Scout Ranch in the Diocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico and who requested a letter to Archbishop Sheehan to the effect that there were no accusations in the past. On reviewing the specific letter request, I wrote to Don indicating that it probably would not be wise to pursue this particular endeavor and asking that he withdraw his name from the list of potential Chaplains for that group.

RJS

✓ 223. Donald Peters
On May 4, 1999 in the context of the Priest Assembly I was approached by Fr. Donald Peters who reported that the Diocese of Orlando, Florida had abruptly terminated all his priestly faculties in January, 1999 on the basis of lack of endorsement from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Since I do not know the full picture, except for phone conversations, I suggested that we meet sometime this Summer in order to discuss the complete history and make some judgments about current faculties.

RJS

ADOM045706

540. Don Peters
June 19, 2002 Don Peters is called by Vicar after conferral with Bishop Sklba and his request to concelebrate [REDACTED]'s funeral is denied. JFH
590. Don Peters
June 28, 2002 Don Peters notifies Vicar that on 6/27 he returned home with his sister to find his house ransacked and his computer and hard drive removed by the sheriff of Sheboygan County who had a search warrant for same after the D.A. ordered this action. He states he admitted 3 additional incidents of sexual abuse to the D.A. or sheriff when asked about this. The D.A. and sheriff held a press conference about this on 6/28. Don is told not to give any info to any media and to obtain a civil lawyer immediately.
Vicar calls Don on 7/1 to check up on how he's coping and talks at length to Don's sister, [REDACTED] whose husband died 11 years ago, is organist for St. Peter Claver, Sheboygan, and for Mary Queen of the Universe during winter months. She reports Don is meeting with attorney Richard Hahn and she was most grateful for the Vicar's call. JFH
457. Donald Peters
On June 28, 2002 in the midst of a meeting with the Internal Communication Committee we learned of a press conference at the Sheboygan Sheriff's office regarding allegations and a search of Don's house by civil authorities seeking evidence of misconduct. The sequence of his history was reviewed for the sake of J.Topczewski and possible press comments. RJS
- 469. Donald Peters
On July 1, 2002 I had a telephone conversation with Sheboygan District Attorney, Robert Wells, who wanted to send some confidential material by FAX and who expressed his great appreciation for the earlier work of Fr. Dan Sanders in Sheboygan, as well as the cooperation received last week from Barbara Ann Cusack in the Chancery. RJS
489. Donald Peters
On July 6, 2002 I spoke with Fr. Don Peters by telephone in order to inquire how he was doing and to offer prayerful support. RJS
724. Don Peters
August 7, 2002 Don Peters writes Vicar and includes pertinent articles from news media re several questions about his future. He was not prepared for the shocking intrusion which took place when civil authorities broke into his home. He plans to return to Florida end of October or early November '02. He will be on senior retreat August 20-22 and have left eye cataract surgery early in September. JFH

Reverend Donald Peters

The following information was obtained from the file of Reverend Donald Russell Anthony Peters, provided by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, 3501 S. Lake Dr., Milwaukee, WI.

Reverend Peters was an Assistant at St. Clement Church in Sheboygan, WI from 1950 until 1960; and at St. Mary's Church in Hales Corners, WI from 1960 until 1962. Between 1962 and 1967, Father Peters was an Administrator at St. Patrick's Church in Fond du Lac, WI; and between 1967 until 1967, he was assigned to Catholic Memorial in Waukesha. Father Peters was a Pastor at St. Patrick's in Fond du Lac, from 1969 until 1971. In 1971 until 1977, he was a Pastor at St. Mary's Church in Sheboygan Falls. He returned to St. Clement Church in Sheboygan, WI in 1977. Father Peters retired in 1992 at the age of 68, after 42 years.

In November, 1992, an anonymous phone call reported a sexual abuse against Father Peters that occurred in 1959-1960. The abuse occurred at a lake cottage in Cascade, WI, owned by the Reverend's father. Father Peters denied any sexual activity occurred.

In 2002, Sheboygan County Sheriff Department served a search warrant at the home of Reverend Peters, seizing his computer. During questioning, Father Peters admitted to molesting the victim three times in his father's cottage in Cascade, WI; and to three additional incidents of inappropriate sexual behavior with minors in the '60's. No incriminating evidence was found on the computer, and it was returned.

ARCHDIOCESE  OF MILWAUKEE
DEPARTMENT FOR CLERGY

July 18, 2005

JUL 18 2005

Mr. [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent phone call regarding Father Don Peters. I spoke with Barbara Anne Cusack regarding any assistance for Father Peters should he decide to seek voluntary laicization.

I understand that the concern revolves around health care expenses. My understanding is that the archdiocese is willing to give Father Peters a lump sum of money to establish a healthcare savings account for use as payment for supplemental health insurance or payment of prescription expenses as Father Peters may determine. We would ask Father Peters to arrange that whatever remains of that lump sum will revert to the archdiocese after his death. The amount of money would probably be \$10,000.

If you have further concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me at 414-769-3490.

In the Lord Jesus,



Very Reverend Curt J. Frederick
Vicar for Clergy

C: Don Peters

To: Archbishop Dolan ✓
Cc: Father Curt Frederick ✓
From: Barbara Anne Cusack
Re: Father Don Peters
Date: July 12, 2005

Background:

We were prepared to send a petition for involuntary laicization to CDF last Fall. Father Peters asked Father Curt to wait until his return from Florida when he would consider voluntary laicization.

Developments:

██████████ is advocating on behalf of Father Peters. He is close to convincing him to select this route. However, the sticking point is health insurance coverage. Father Peters is worried about not having the additional coverage the diocese provides to retired priests to supplement Medicare. We cannot continue to cover him if he is laicized.

Proposal:

Would we consider some moderate "lump sum" amount (perhaps \$10,000) that he could put into a medical savings account to assist his medical needs? We would have him sign an agreement that this is full and final charitable assistance and that any residual in the account at the time of his death would revert to the Archdiocese. We will need to consult with legal counsel that this would not be an excessive entanglement still leaving him too connected with us.

Is this proposal acceptable to you?

ADOM045729

Subject: Vicar's update

Date: Fri, 28 Jun 2002 17:28:00 -0500

From: "Fr. Joe Hornacek" <schweihsk@archmil.org>

To: <schweihsk@archmil.org>

To Archdiocesan Priests, Deacons, Parish Directors:
Dear Father, Deacon, Parish Director,

Consistent with my previous commitment to try to notify you about any potential media reports on sexual abuse by one of our clergy, I am sending you the following notification.

Although we understand that this information is already circulating in the media, we did want to inform you of a situation involving a retired priest. The Sheboygan District Attorney informed us this afternoon that Father Donald Peters has admitted inappropriate sexual behavior with minors in the 1960's. The sheriff's department in Sheboygan is investigating this matter and held a press conference this afternoon to announce that fact. We had no advance notice that these actions would be taken by the Sheboygan authorities. Please keep all involved in your prayers.

Father Joseph Hornacek

JAN 04 1995

CHRISTMAS 1994

Bishop Dick -

The "highlight" of this past year was the Pilgrimage to Egypt and Israel Feb. 18 to Mar 5 with 12 priests directed by Fr. Lauren Wenig who studied in Jerusalem for 5 years. We started in Cairo but 3 of us added 2 days to include a trip to Luxor, Karnak with the valley of the Kings which was most enlightening. The trip by bus over the Suez Canal and through the desert up to the Dead Sea with stays at Beersheva, Tiberius, and Jerusalem. This was a prayerful journey with opportunities to learn about the many "Holy Places" to Judaism, Christianity and Moslems. I have many pictures to show when you come to Mulberry, FL, Lake Ellen, WI., or visit you.

This Christmas (Winter Season) finds us (Valerie & me) in Florida again. We don't know how long we will continue this dual life-style, but the progression of physical and financial things will help us determine that.

Valerie spent about 5 weeks with me up at Lake Ellen, but had to return so that she could earn money to meet her expenses. The purchase of the Manufactured Home hit her budget very hard. My help is minimum. She teaches private piano lessons for about 15 people in their homes. Her travel provides income, but adds to the expenses.

I returned to Lake Ellen the week before May 1 and they saved one snow for this "snow bird" - about 4 inches came on that Saturday - Oh Well!

During my months in the north - I am still sorting and distributing my "stuff." I never realized how much I had accumulated until I had to bring my northern things together into one living space. I gave a packet of CYO NEWSFRONT - a monthly bulletin used in the Sheboygan Parishes in the 1950's, 60's, and 70's - to the Sheboygan Historical Society in Sheboygan Falls.

My Scout activities are being reduced very dramatically. I have turned over to the Milwaukee Scout Museum all printed matter from the several Jamborees and Order of the Arrow Conferences in which I participated over the years. I gave many books to the Bay-Lakes Camp program center. Many smaller items have gone to individuals or have been sold. The National Catholic Committee historical group has received many related items including some from Msgr. Kuehn.

Now I have to take time to sort and see what will happen to my collection of Disneyanna items. There might be a market for some of these things someplace!

During my months in the north - I was able to help the priests in the Sheboygan area have vacations by taking their place for weekend Masses. A couple of the places also asked for week-day Masses. This is a very interesting experience because I get to see the many different ways that parishes conduct liturgies. BUT the best part is that I don't have to make parish decisions and NO MEETINGS!

During my months in the south - I have helped a little in local parishes, some at a County Prison Mass on Saturday evening and at "Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine" near Sea World & Disney World in Orlando. Met some St. Clement Parishioners there on Easter Sunday 1994!

We are willing to help you share the enjoyment of Tourist Places if you ever travel this way. However, we do not have enough room to invite you to stay with us. Accomodations at reasonable prices are available at many places!

My prayers for you, your Dad, and your job(s)

*Try, Trust, Triumph.
Don Peters*

ADOM045771

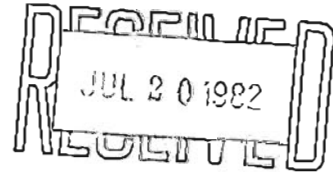
ARCHDIOCESE
OF MILWAUKEE

Copy: Father Janicki

345 NORTH NINETY FIFTH STREET • P.O. BOX 2018 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201 • PHONE 414/476-2101

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 19, 1982



The Reverend Donald Peters
[REDACTED]
Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081

Dear Don,

Recently I had a conversation with Mike Grellinger on the question of a chaplain to the Boy Scouts. Mike wishes to relinquish his present role there and has asked me to name you as chaplain.

With this letter, then, I formally do so.

May God's blessings be many as you assume this role.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Milwaukee

Copy: Tom Tomaszek
(Christian Formation Unit, Youth Ministry)

ADOM045807

134. Peters, Donald

[REDACTED]

RJS

✓ 669. Donald Peters

On November 4, 1992 District Attorney James Frisch reported an anonymous phone call from a slow speaking, somewhat confused gentleman who called the District Attorney at home claiming some inappropriate behavior 30 years ago by Don. The allegation was so confused and without specifics and as a result the District Attorney wanted to inform us of the matter in order to maintain good communications. I called Don to learn that he was away and left a message indicating I wished to speak with him.

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

RJS

✓ 690. Donald Peters

On Saturday, November 7, 1992 I briefly spoke with Don to alert him to the anonymous allegation received in Sheboygan.

RJS

✓ 738. Donald Peters

On December 3, 1992 Don called asking if any further information had been received regarding the anonymous allegation. I stated that no additional conversation had occurred and told him he could continue planning to be absent for a vacation after Christmas.

RJS

✓ 260. Donald Peters

[REDACTED]

RJS

✓ 223. Donald Peters

[REDACTED]

AOM SUPP 000024

RJS

ADOM058420

CONFIDENTIAL

572. Donald Peters

On September 24, 1999 I finally had the opportunity to sit down with Father Peters and to discuss the allegation which surfaced in November of 1992. We reviewed the fact that the Archdiocese had received only one single, anonymous call through the District Attorney of Sheboygan and that nothing further or concrete had ever been added to the case since that time. Father Peters reported that he had received a phone call from an official of the Orlando Diocese on January 11, 1999, indicating that no Sacramental ministry could be exercised there because of lack of positive testimony from Milwaukee. I promised to check the Chancery file in order to see if there was any information beyond the single notation in the Vicar's office. I also promised to review the status of the matter with the Archbishop, especially given the fact that he remains with full faculties from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Acknowledging that he would deal with adolescents differently today, he had no clear recollection of inappropriate behavior. He stated that his intention was to leave Cascade for the winter in Lakeland, Florida on November 15, 1999. Until that time, his Cascade telephone remained [REDACTED]

RJS

661. Donald Peters

[REDACTED]

RJS

761. Donald Peters

[REDACTED]

RJS

422. Don Peters

May 17, 2002 Don Peters is contacted by Vicar who reports an allegation came in which requires a Precept to be issued. Vicar allows him to concelebrate a funeral on 5/20 at St. Clement. Sheboygan. Precept will be given to him the following day.

JFH

433. Don Peters

May 21, 2002 Don Peters meets with Vicar to receive the Precept. HE is told of the alleged sexual abuse which took place in his father's house in '59 or '60 while he was Assistant at St Peter Claver, Sheboygan. Don recognizes the name of the victim and agrees to write the requested letter of apology, sending it to the Vicar's office. He recalls that in '92 Bishop Skiba notified him of an anonymous allegation made about him to the Sheboygan DA. Peters retired in '93. He also reports that Bishop Dorsey of Orlando wrote to Peters after conferring with Archbishop Weakland about 3 years ago and forbade Peters to exercise any public ministry in the Orlando Diocese. Vicar updates Dr. Reinke and Barbara Anne Cusack of this.

JFH

AOM SUPP 000025

ADOM058421

Select Peters Sexual Abuse Intake Reports

5/2/02 Sexual Abuse Intake Report regarding victim who reported originally in the letter dated 4/23/02. The survivor alleges abuse by Peters from 1959-1960 when the survivor was 16 years old and says there were other boys around who may also have been abused. On three occasions, Peters showed the survivor pictures of young men partially clothed and fondled the survivor. The survivor also notes that Peters was heavily involved in the Boy Scouts.