# TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING JEROME E. LANSER<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

8/16/76 Vicar Log Entry. Report to Elverman that Lanser drinks heavily and is gone all the time. Reports that Lanser has no housekeeper nor secretary and organizes nothing. (17304) 8/16/76 Vicar Log Entry. Esser and Barrett decided mutually to give matter of Lanser to the Task Force on Priest Alcoholism. (17304) 8/30/76 Vicar Log Entry. Lanser advised to see a psychologist. (17304) 9/30/76 Vicar Log Entry. Lanser picked up from Franklin police station – Lanser was inebriated – and taken to Sacred Heart Monastery. (17304) 11/3/76 Don Weber letter to Lanser mentioning that Lanser's name has frequently surfaced before the Task Force on Priest Alcoholism during recent months. (17299)11/8/76 Vicar Log Entry. Meeting with Lanser. If Task Force on Priest Alcoholism agreed unanimously (that Lanser must go for treatment), then he has no choice. Lanser prefers Hazelden. (17305) 11/12/76 Vicar Log Entry. Reservation made for Lanser at Hazelden. (17306) 11/13/76 Don Weber letter to Hazelden acknowledging that the Task Force on Priest Alcoholism and Lanser unanimously believe he needs treatment. (17237) 12/6/76 Archbishop letter to Lanser expressing gratitude for the services he has rendered to the Archdiocese and his goodwill and willingness to avail to treatment. (17236)10/2/78 Barrett submission to Hornacek. Summary of activities of Jerome Lanser, which led Barrett to report him. After Lanser returned from the treatment program early, the Task Force called and stated that they hoped he would remain since they though there was "something else wrong with him." Indicates several inquiries by other priests to Barrett regarding Lanser's homosexual activities. Indicates that a younger male, sent to Sacred Heart by the courts to put in some hours of community service, also stayed overnight in Lanser's rooms. Details numerous men calling the rectory for Lanser and soliciting sex. (17315-17320) 11/22/78 Barrett submission to Hornachek as a follow-up to 10/2/78 correspondence detailing additional issues with Lanser. (17310-17313) 1/22/79 Lanser letter to Weakland indicating the last two months at Via Coeli had merit and he will write again when settled in Albuquerque. (17307) 3/3/79 Barrett letter to Weakland indicating Lanser was arrested for sexual misconduct in 1970 and that Barrett tells parishioners that Lanser is on extended sick leave of absence. Barrett indicates he is done covering up and hiding the scandal. (17338-17344)

3/5/79 Servants of the Paraclete letter to Weakland discussing work with Lanser and indicating the sexual areas of Lanser's life are serious and Lanser is dealing with them in a most honest way. (43647-43648) 3/12/79 Weakland letter to Lanser asking him to resign from his post as pastor at Racine. (17345)3/22/79 Lanser letter to Weakland submitting his resignation as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Racine. (17243) 04/79 - Resigned/Unassigned (In a treatment program in Albuquerque - Servants of the Paraclete) (43582-43584) 4/16/79 Servants of the Paraclete letter to Weakland updating him on Lanser's progress. (43649)9/3/79 Servants of the Paraclete report to Weakland (redacted). (17328) 10/15/79 Lanser letter to Weakland indicating he is doing help-out work at the University of Albuquerque. (43507) 12/14/79 Weakland letter to Lanser appointing him Administrator Pro Tem at St. Mary Parish in Pewaukee, effective December 29, 1979. (17246) 12/29/79 – Administrator, Pro Tem, St. Mary Parish, Pewaukee, WI 2/27/80 Weakland letter to Lanser appointing him Administrator of St. Mary Parish in Pewaukee. (17249) 2/27/80 – Administrator, St. Mary Parish, Pewaukee, WI Vicar Log Entry No. 564. Spoke to Servants of the Paraclete about complaints 3/30/81 they have been receiving about Lanser's erratic behavior. (17599) 4/20/81 Vicar Log Entry No. 684. Spoke with Lanser, admitted falling off the wagon in regards to drinking. Complaints involve a funeral incident and an incident at a bank. Encouraged to go to AA meetings and contact therapist. (17599) 6/28/81 Vicar Log Entry No. 963. Complaint regarding Lanser. He's drinking again and this is confirmed by Lanser's secretary. (17600) 7/1/81 Vicar Log Entry. Call from Albuquerque Villa regarding Lanser. Vicar related that Lanser has been drinking. Vicar advised that Lanser should come immediately to Vista Sandia Hospital for detoxification and treatment. Due to Lanser's bad performance, he will be relieved of his present assignment. Vicar will confront Lanser. (17601) 7/13/81 Vicar Log Entry No. 1018. Meeting with Lanser to confront him about his behavior the last couple of months. He will return to Albuquerque for treatment and the decision has been made to transfer him from St. Mary. (17601)

- 7/14/81 Vicar Log Entry. Indicates Don Weber will take over as temporary administrator at St. Mary Parish. Lanser will be reassigned when he gets back from Albuquerque. (17600)
- Janicki letter to Lanser assigning him to a sick leave of absence, effective July 17, 1981. Ordered to undergo further treatment at Albuquerque Villa. (17355)

## 7/17/81 – Sick Leave of Absence

7/20/81 Vicar Log Entry No. 1047. Lanser called inquiring about what would be put in the Herald Citizen about his transfer. He was told that since he was on a leave of absence, his name would not be placed in the Herald. (17602)

## 08/81 – Sick Leave (43582-43584)

- 9/8/81 Vicar Log Entry No. 1200. Albuquerque Villa called to report that Lanser is ready to come home and wondered about an assignment for him. Lanser agreed to resume injections of the drug depravera. Their testing showed that this was the only way they could control his unusual psychological drives. (17602)
- 9/12/81 Vicar Log Entry No. 1215 (log indicates date of 1991, but is likely misdated). Foley sees no objection to reassignment in the Milwaukee area. The Personnel Board will work toward reassignment. (17602)
- Janicki letter to Lanser appointing him Associate Pastor at St. Roman Parish in Milwaukee, effective September 29, 1981. (17366)

# 9/29/81 – Associate Pastor, St. Roman Parish, Milwaukee, WI

- Vicar Log Entry No. 1272. Asked Lanser to disclose some of the nature of his problems to Dominiak for safety sake. Lanser has no problem discussing his alcoholic problem with Dominiak. If asked, Lanser will tell Dominiak "that he is under doctor's care for a nervous condition." (17603)
- 10/23/81 Vicar Log Entry No. 1300. Call made to Lanser's doctor who informed that he has missed his appointment and has not been administered his drugs for 6 weeks. Lanser was taking antibuse when he left Albuquerque Villa. (17603)
- 11/2/81 Vicar Log Entry No. 1342. Indicates the nature of Lanser's medication is critical. The Albuquerque group wants to see Lanser again every six months and even sooner if there was a breakdown. (17604)
- 2/17/82 Vicar Log Entry No. 166. Spoke to Dr. Means about the continuing negative reports about Lanser drinking again (see prior Vicar Log entries). Need to confront Lanser. (17604)
- 2/19/82 Vicar Log Entry No. 175. Meeting with Callahan, Dominiak, and Lanser. Lanser has been drinking and a follow-up program at DePaul was suggested. The use of antibuse was suggested. (17605)

2/20/82 Vicar Log Entry No. 176. Report that Lanser had been drinking. Lanser agreed to go to Elmbrook Memorial Hospital. (17605) 2/23/82 Vicar Log Entry No. 185. Lanser is leaving the hospital after only a few days – he was discharged so that he could return to the parish for the beginning of Lent. Lanser was detoxified and placed on antibuse. Vicar note that he would have liked to see Lanser stay longer, but that the doctor felt that he had enough. (17605)11/12/84 Vicar Log Entry No. 1031. Notes accusation that Lanser was having an affair with [redacted] woman's husband. Vicar will meet with the woman. (17606) 11/21/84 Vicar Log Entry No. 1073. Indicates that Lanser denies having an affair with the woman's husband. Vicar told Lanser that he believes Lanser. (17607) 12/18/84 EastTown Therapy Services letter to Janicki regarding therapy for Lanser. (43689)Janicki letter to EastTown Therapy Services, thanking them for the update. 12/20/84 (17390)1/12/87 Vicar Log Entry No. 29. Sklba met with Lanser to discuss various rumors circulating in St. Roman's Parish. Lanser assured Sklba that there had been no arrest during the past four years and is totally perplexed by the ongoing rumor regarding activity in the parked car. Sklba is going to review police records and follow-up with pastor regarding rumors. (17608) 11/22/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 1124. Lanser called Sklba to ask if Sklba would be supportive if Lanser applied for a pastorate in the spring. Sklba indicated he would endorse Lanser's request for assignment if there were no conditions recommended at the conclusion of Lanser's treatment. (17608) 1/5/89 Vicar Log Entry No. 11. Sklba called Lanser to express his support, in view of his fidelity to AA meetings, for his application for a pastorate. (17609) 1/27/89 Weakland letter to Lanser appointing him Chaplain/Director of Pastoral Care at Franciscan Villa Nursing Home in South Milwaukee, effective February 28, 1989. (17393)2/28/89 - Chaplain, Franciscan Villa, South Milwaukee, WI 4/25/90 Vicar Log Entry No. 684. Two parishioners met with Sklba to discuss issues of sexuality and public demeanor regarding Lanser. (17609) 8/25/90 Vicar Log Entry No. 689. Sklba notes conversation with Lanser about gossip stemming from his association with a young woman who followed him to St. John's Parish. (17609)

2/23/91 Vicar Log Entry No. 234. Sklba indicates that Lanser claims he was robbed in the rectory and his car stolen after giving someone a ride. A sexual advance had been rebuffed. A police report was filed. (17609) 2/25/91 Trepanier confidential memo to Sklba regarding allegations against Lanser of a homosexual incident. Administrator of Franciscan Villa called with concerns that Lanser may have been involved in a homosexual incident in which he was allegedly robbed of his car and other personal belongings. Letter indicates the normal procedure for allegations is shared. Relates to same incident noted in Vicar Log Entry No. 234. (17399) Vicar Log Entry No. 357. Sklba spoke briefly with administrator of the 3/28/91 Franciscan Villa to assure him that concern about Lanser's ministry seemed to be groundless in view of the police report. (17609) 7/20/91 Gross memo to Sklba regarding complaint about Lanser from a member of St. John's Parish. Concerned about substantiated fact that Jerry has been arrested for homosexual affairs and beaten up by a homosexual. (17400) 10/9/91 Vicar Log Entry No. 20. Matthew Flynn received a letter regarding Lanser. An attorney representing [redacted name] alleges that Lanser abused him from 1965-1969 in Menomonee Falls. (17281) 10/9/91 Vicar Log Entry No. 20. RTV indicates Joe Dean shared with him a letter from Matthew Flynn from an attorney representing an individual who was sexually abused in Menomonee Falls by Lanser in 1964-1969. Same individual referenced previously. (57969) 1/13/92 Venne letter of recommendation to National Association of Catholic Chaplains indicating Lanser is a priest in good standing in the Archdiocese. (17401) Vicar Log Entry No. 335. RTV indicates lawsuit relating to letter referenced in 4/20/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 20 will proceed against Lanser. (17610) 6/10/92 Vicar Log Entry. Mary Kay Balcunas calls Vicar about a psychiatrist asking for a priest who would be available for a patient of the psychiatrist who claims she was abused by Lanser. Appears to relate to the same man reporting abuse in Vicar Log Entry No. 20 and No. 335 previously. Psychiatrist will be told that Project Benjamin has priests available. (17300) 7/8/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 395. RTV indicates that Sklba encouraged Lanser to appeal his denied Chaplaincy Certification. A letter of recommendation was suggested if needed. (17611) Vicar Log Entry No. 544. Lanser called to say that a lawsuit discussed in Vicar 8/10/92 Log Entry No. 335 above was threatened to be filed this week. (17611) 8/21/92 Sentinel article indicating lawsuit initiated by man reporting to have been sexually assaulted by a priest in a Menomonee Falls parish. (43701)

- 8/21/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 587. RTV indicated article in the August 21 Milwaukee Sentinel referred to allegations against a priest that was at St. Mary's in the 1960s. (17611)
- Vicar Log Entry No. 599. Lanser called to inform them he received the lawsuit and was interested in some Professional Counseling. (17612)
- 10/29/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 793. At the request of Weakland, Lanser should contact his lawyer and tell the Nursing Home administrator of the allegations against him. (17612)
- Vicar Log Entry No. 945. RTV notes a call from Franciscan Villa. Administrator at Franciscan Villa Nursing Home received a report that Lanser had been "overly friendly" with young males at the facility. Lanser had "touched" one of them. Administrator confronted Lanser and Lanser did not deny any of the allegations. Administrator wanted to know if there were previous charges against Lanser. Sklba will tell the Administrator about the present allegations even though Lanser's personal lawyer advised otherwise. (17612)
- Vicar Log Entry No. 961. RTV met with Administrator of Franciscan Villa. RTV informed him of the lawsuit that had been filed with allegations against Lanser. Administrator explained what had happened between Lanser and an adult young man who had been working at the nursing home. Administrator had a meeting with the young man and was assured that there had been no improper touching. Young man left employment because Lanser made him uncomfortable. (17613)
- 12/21/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 976. Administrator of Franciscan Villa did not feel that Lanser's behavior was reason for termination. Thought paid leave for sexual harassment training and meeting with his therapist was the best solution. (17613)
- 1/4/93 Vicar Log Entry No. 6. Joe Anderson (priest) was informed by Lanser of the allegations and said that Lanser does not have any contact with minor children at the parish. (17613)
- Vicar Log Entry No. 74. Sklba met with Lanser in order to formulate a plan for terminating his Chaplaincy at the Franciscan home "in view of all the circumstances currently impinging on his ministry, namely the lawsuit, the threat of physical violence, the ongoing investigation by the media, the concern of the sponsoring group and some of the community concerns because of recent events." (17614)
- Administrator of Franciscan Villa letter to Weakland concerning the departure of Lanser. He states, "All are viewing Father Jerome's departure as being of a private nature with stress related problems and the understanding that he will be reassigned through the Archdiocese. I think we're in pretty good shape concerning that and hopefully things will work themselves out in the future." (17426-17427)

# <u>1993 – Unassigned (43582-43584)</u>

2/11/93 Sklba letter to Lanser indicating that in view of all the circumstances converging, it continues to seem wise that Lanser refrain from public sacramental ministry at Franciscan Nursing Home or St. John's Parish and concentrate his energy upon dealing with the many stresses Lanser is currently experiencing. (17428) 3/4/93 Weakland letter to Administrator of Franciscan Villa regarding Lanser's situation. Noting they handled it okay and that it is difficult to balance all the values present in a situation. (17255) 3/15/93 Vicar Log Entry No. 178. Lanser said he is innocent and wants to have a trial to prove his innocence. (17615) 6/11/93 Lanser granted certification as Chaplain by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. (17437) 6/21/93 Vicar Log Entry No. 424. Sklba spoke with Fr. Driscoll of NACC and asking that he postpone any announcement of Lanser's certification pending the outcome of a current lawsuit. (17280) 9/28/93 Vicar Log Entry No. 888. They received a letter stating that the Judge had dismissed the lawsuit against Lanser on statute of limitations grounds. (17617) 10/15/93 Vicar Log Entry No. 620. RTV notes meeting with Sklba and Weakland wherein Weakland decides that Lanser should not engage in any sacramental ministry until all appeals are concluded. (17617) 7/25/94 Vicar Log Entry No. 823. Lanser's case is in the appeal process. (17619) 5/25/95 Precept Issued by Weakland against Lanser, stating he must refrain from contact with minors, cease in public ministry, avoid situations that tempt him, and revoking faculty to hear confession. (17258-17259) (17450) 7/7/95 Vicar Log Entry No. 532. Sklba spoke with Lanser and reiterated the rationale for the ministerial restrictions and encouraged a movement out of the parish. (17620) 8/26/96 Vicar Log Entry No. 823. Sklba indicated the impossibility of utilizing Lanser as a Chaplain at Elm Grove. (17620) 10/15/97 Piasecki Entry for the Sexual Abuse Log indicating receipt of call from supervisor in the Department of Probation and Parole in the Department of Corrections. Lanser is attempting to intervene on behalf of convicted sex offender. (55447) 5/19/98 Matt Flynn (Quarles and Brady) letter to Melita Biese (survivor's attorney) enclosing a Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release. Settlement agreement is in connection with the prior lawsuit. If signed, Flynn will give a check in the amount of \$2,746.50. (55945)\*\*

Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release between [redacted], Lanser, St. Mary's, and the Archdiocese for \$2,746.50. (55947-55952)

10/14/98 Vicar Log Entry No. 319. Lanser denied permission by Archbishop to concelebrate Mass at St. Mary's. (17621)

10/3/00 Vicar Log Entry No. 879. Lanser encouraged requesting retirement now that he is 68 so he can begin to collect pension and social security, thereby reducing any subsidy from the Archdiocese. (17622)

10/9/00 Lanser letter to Weakland initiating the retirement process. (17567)

10/18/00 Weakland letter to Lanser accepting his retirement. (17268)

## 10/00 - Retired

Reinke memo to Hornacek and Sklba. Reinke received a call from an unidentified man who had been abused by Lanser 30 years previous. Lanser had appeared at his brother's funeral. Reinke told the man that the Archdiocese would talk to Lanser and make it clear to him that it is inappropriate for him to have contact with those he abused or their families. Reinke notes "This is the type of situation that is coming back to bite us with some frequency. Several survivors, who were previously willing to let things rest, have contacted us recently because of unwanted proximity to the offender that stirred them up." (17203)

Weakland memo to Reinke. He took a call from an individual who asserted that in 1973 or 1974 when he was 13-14, Lanser tried to sexually assault him. He reported this to Fr. Thadeus Bryl, stationed at St. Leo's. He was taken to Bishop Brust to relate his story. (17591) Sexual Abuse Intake Report (regarding the same individual) dated 5/9/2002 documents report that in 1973 or 1974, Lanser sexually assaulted a boy who was 13-15 years old. The boy reported this to Fr. Thadeus Bryl stationed at St. Leo's. He was taken to Bishop Brust to relate his story. (17591) Brust told him not to talk about it or discuss it. (17202)

7/15/02 Reinke letter to individual who reported on 5/8/02 regarding therapy and enclosing the fee schedule offered through Project Benjamin. (31768)

8/22/02 Lanser letter to Sklba outlining allegations made against him and maintaining his complete innocence. (17271-17272)

Vicar Log Entry No. 626. Lanser inquired of Sklba about plans to publish names of offenders. Lanser insists he is innocent of all charges. (17623)

8/27/02 Sklba letter to Lanser indicating an accusation against him from almost 30 years ago at St. Leo's Parish. Due to more urgent cases, no one has been able to proceed with the investigation. When the process of review by Judge Fiorenza is completed the matter can be brought to Lanser's attention and a final report written. (17595)

2/3/03 Dolan letter to Lanser from Dolan confirming his precept and restrictions. (17274)

- 9/27/04 Dolan letter to Cardinal Ratzinger submitting for his consideration Lanser's case and noting the continued allegations, repeated treatment, and re-offending. Requests that he be dismissed *ex officio* from the clerical state. (17285-17286)
- 11/11/04 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting abuse of 8 or 9 year old by Lanser in Racine in 1975-1976. (31477)
- O3/05 Clergy Advocacy and Monitoring Program Protocol signed by Lanser, Frederick, and Program Coordinator. (17282-17284)
- Dolan response to Lanser Letter. Dolan stated that in Lanser's recent conversations, Lanser seems to focus on two points; Lanser talks of only one allegation and refers to a lack of a conviction. Dolan clarifies that "we are not dealing with a single allegation but with multiple incidents. You [Lanser] are also aware that the one case that did find its way into the court system was a civil, not criminal case. It was not dismissed on the facts of the case but rather on the statute of limitations." Dolan explains the review process. The ultimate determination in his case rests with the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, but in the interim Lanser is to continue observing the provisions of the precept previously issued. (17275)
- 7/7/06 Angelo Amato (Titular Archbishop of Sila) letter to Dolan regarding Lanser. Indicating that it would be more appropriate to proceed by way of administrative penal process, because while the priest admits that acts of sexual misconduct occurred, he denies that the individuals were minors at the time. (43441–43442)
- 9/15/06 Lanser letter to Dolan writing to ask, at the direction of his Canon Lawyer, if he may remain in the priesthood and continue to live his life in prayer and penance. (43443)
- Dolan letter to Lanser indicating that he was recently advised by CDF that he could proceed with an administrative penal process to resolve Lanser's case. Dolan received a report from Lanser's doctor about Lanser's fragile physical health, and a petition from Lanser with supportive documentation. Dolan states as long as Lanser continues to abide by the stringent restrictions that have been placed upon him, namely that he does not present himself in public as a cleric by either attire or title, Dolan would allow him to abide by the stringent restrictions and remain in the priesthood and live out his life in prayer and penance. Lanser will continue to remain in contact with monitor to ensure that the restrictions are being observed. Any indication that they are not would then result in initiating a formal process against Lanser. (43438)
- 3/25/10 Confidential Notice of Concern regarding another report of abuse from the 1980s involving Lanser. Individual reporting the sexual assault was an adult at the time of the assault. Victims assistance coordinator informed the individual that he had a right to go to the police if he had been sexually assaulted. (123902)

9/5/10 Survivor letter to Lanser regarding his abuse by Nichols. Indicates that Lanser is attending wakes and funerals wearing his collar. (123902) 12/15/10 Mauro Cardinal Piacenza (Prefect) to Listecki regarding the charitable assistance "Rev. Lester" is receiving and indicating surprise that the Archdiocese is experiencing financial difficulties based off the last financial information that the Dicastery received in conjunction with the last ad limina visit in 2004 that indicated that there was no difficulty in providing for the clergy. (43538) 1/11/11 Listecki letter to Mauro Cardinal Piacenz indicating that Lanser receives full pension benefits of a retired priest but given the financial issues that he no longer should receive support over and above ordinary insurance. (43456–43457) 3/23/11 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting report of abuse when 13 to 14 years old by Lanser at St. Leo's Parish. (31115–31116) 4/5/11 Paul Tiffin (ADA of Milwaukee County) letter to Cusack indicating prosecution of the recent allegations (intake report dated 3/21/11) of sexual assault against Lanser are barred by the statute of limitations. (43539) 5/7/11 Celso Morga Iruzubieta letter to Lanser with Decree attached (regarding financial assistance to Lanser). (43450–43452) 2010/2011 Amy Peterson email to [redacted] indicating the Archdiocese is able to offer therapy again because of the Bankruptcy Court order and a process is being developed for individuals to file a claim in the bankruptcy proceedings. Provides information to individual on attorney representing sex abuse claimants in the bankruptcy proceeding. (31114) Undated Lanser's assignment history. (43582-43584)