

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING RICHARD NICHOLS¹

5/31/58 – Ordination

6/11/58 Meyer letter to Nichols appointing him assistant at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Waterford, effective June 20, 1958. Letter indicates that Nichols is welcome to discuss any of his problems with Meyer. (19488)

6/20/58 – Assistant, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Waterford, WI

3/7/62 Cousins letter to Nichols appointing him assistant at St. Lawrence Parish in Milwaukee, effective March 15, 1962. (19489)

3/15/62 – Assistant, St. Lawrence Parish, Milwaukee, WI

8/28/63 Cousins letter to Nichols appointing him Instructor of Religion at Mercy High School in Milwaukee for the coming scholastic year. (19490)

1963-64 – Instructor of Religion, Mercy High School, Milwaukee, WI

6/22/64 Cousins letter to Nichols appointing him Curate at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Milwaukee, effective July 1, 1964. (19493)

7/1/64 – Curate, Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Milwaukee, WI

1/25/65 Cousins letter to Nichols appointing him District Director of District 3-A for Vocations Program. (19491)

01/65 – District Director of Vocations, District 3-A

3/22/66 Cousins letter to Nichols appointing him Curate at St. Catherine's Parish in Milwaukee, effective April 12, 1966. (19494)

4/12/66 – Curate, St. Catherine Parish, Milwaukee, WI

6/24/66 Cousins letter to Nichols relieving him of his assignment at St. Catherine's effective July 6, 1966, and telling him to contact the Chancery to discuss future assignment. (19495)

Beres letter to Nichols indicating the Archbishop asked him to follow up and asking Nichols to see Beres at the Chancery. (19496)

7/6/66 – Leave

9/12/67 Rev. Robert Sampon letter to Nichols indicating that Nichols is taking classes. (19497)

¹ This timeline was principally prepared by Jeff Anderson & Associates PA; Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C. provided limited corrections to certain entries and assisted with redactions of abuse survivor information that could potentially have identified individual abuse survivors.

7/29/71 Cousins letter to Nichols transferring him from his position as Chaplain at St. Mary's Academy to "In Residence" at St. Sebastian Parish in Milwaukee, effective August 3, 1971. (19498)

8/3/71 – "In Residence," St. Sebastian Parish, Milwaukee, WI

5/28/74 Employee Payroll sheet indicates Nichols' present address is temporary; will change within the month. (19504)

6/18/74 Father Paul Esser letter to Nichols outlining his new job responsibilities and indicating that Nichols will provide psychological testing for diaconate students. (19499- 19501)

7/19/74 Cousins letter to Nichols appointing him "In Residence" at St. Aloysius Parish in West Allis, effective immediately. (19502)

7/19/74 – "In Residence," St. Aloysius Parish, West Allis, WI

07/74 – Psychological consultant, Tribunal/Deacon Office (36097)

7/19/74 Sampon letter to Nichols stating he will be a psychological consultant to the Matrimonial Tribunal and the Permanent Diaconate Program and also help out St. Aloysius. (19503)

9/12/74 Esser letter to Nichols indicating Nichols failed to meet the needs and duties of the psychological program and that he was proceeding with a termination of Nichols' services. (19508)

1979 Parent of individual abused by Nichols letter to Weakland explaining situation between their son and Nichols. States that Nichols had "sexual approached" the son at Nichols cottage where he had the boy and two others boys staying with him. Also notes that it had been reported to Father Elverman, who has helped the boy a great deal. (36110-11)

1979 Letter to Weakland stating that, four years ago, Nichols fooled around with him and put his hand down the boy's pants when he was in grade school at St. Aloysius. (36114-17)

8/10/79 Weakland letter to individual noted above indicating he will do his best to see that Nichols gets the help – spiritual and psychological – that he needs. (36106)

8/11/79 Weakland letter to parent of survivor. States that he will see to it that Nichols gets help. (36112)

8/28/79 Letter from parent of survivor who wrote to Weakland (36114-17) to Douglas Henderson (Secretary, Psychology Examining Board) entering a charge of professional misconduct against Nichols who holds a license to practice psychology in Wisconsin. Indicates Nichols took sexual liberties with the author's son in 1975. (36103)

11/5/79 Secretary letter to Weakland with new address for Nichols and work address of Stress Management Clinic in West Allis, WI. (19521)

04/81 – Released From Active Ministry to Work in Private Practice (36097)

4/30/81 Janicki letter to Nichols stating that Nichols is released from active ministry in the Archdiocese to continue his work in private practice in psychology. Faculties are still in place and he is able to do help-out work in addition to continuing to help the Notre Dame Sisters of Elm Grove. (19522)

3/7/84 Amended Complaint filed against Nichols by the Wisconsin Psychology Examining Board accusing Nichols of engaging in sexual misconduct with a minor while providing psychological services. (36123-24)

7/13/84 Psychology Examining Board letter to Janicki enclosing a copy of the amended complaint in the matter of disciplinary proceedings against Nichols. (36122)

2/8/85 Milwaukee Journal Article indicating Nichols entered a plea of no contest to a formal complaint of sexual contact with a minor male patient. The Archdiocese confirmed that Nichols is not assigned, but still has faculties. (19530)

2/22/85 Weakland letter to Nichols restricting his faculties because of the no contest plea to the revocation of his psychological license. (55975)

03/85 – Lost License to Psychology (36097)

3/25/85 Brust memo to Neuman indicating Nichols will leave Elm Grove and move to where his cottage is located. Nichols has indicated that he will remain there indefinitely and perhaps start up a psychology practice there. (36108)

3/95 Diocese of Madison informed that Nichols had residence in their territory, but that he was not to be in active ministry. (36097)

7/8/85 Nichols letter to Weakland asking permission to baptize his niece's infant daughter. Handwritten notes from Weakland state, "Fine for the baptism." (19541)

7/19/85 Weakland memo of visit with Nichols. Nichols indicated he comes into the city to have Masses at the Visitation Convent or the Health Care Center, other than that he has performed no public ministry. Nichols was told that it would never be possible for him again to function as both priest and psychologist in the diocese. Nichols did not appear willing to accept any guilt and instead blamed Janicki and his classmates for insensitivity. Nichols stated that he had been in therapy, but that he had terminated the therapy due to cost. Weakland encouraged Nichols to return to therapy. (55988-89)

09/85 Report of abuse by Nichols. (36097)

- 5/4/90 Gross letter to Nichols granting him the faculties to preside at the marriage of his niece. (19544)
- 6/25/93 1993 intake report. Individual was abused in 1966 by Nichols when Nichols was at Ss. Peter & Paul Parish. Individual states the abuse went on or several months until the mother of another boy reported it, and that Nichols was then transferred. (33636-37)
- 7/8/93 Memo of meeting between Diane Knight and individual who reported on 6/25/93 indicating Knight sent the individual information on Nichols dating back to 1981 and informing the individual that Nichols' faculties were removed in 1985. (33638)
- 7/9/93 Diane Knight (ACSW, Director of Program Services) letter to individual who reported on 6/25/93 indicating she obtained information regarding Nichols dating back to 1981 and that in 1985, Weakland removed Nichols' priestly faculties after Nichols pled no contest to the charge of sexual abuse of a minor client. (33628-29)
- 4/7/94 Connell notes from meeting with Nichols in the hospital. Indicates Nichols is willing to extend an apology to the survivor and sign an authorization for release of his documents to Quarles & Brady. (55977-78)
- 4/7/94 Signed authorization for release of Nichols' documents to Quarles & Brady. (57679)

05/94 – Retirement (36097)

- 5/24/94 Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release made between [redacted], Nichols, St. Aloysius Parish, and the Archdiocese for \$75,000. (58574-78)
- 6/8/94 Weakland letter to Nichols granting him early retirement. (19547)
- 5/25/95 Weakland letter to Nichols indicating he is reviewing the situation of priests who have had allegations of misconduct placed against them and enclosing a document imposing ministerial restrictions. (57675)
- Weakland Precept placing on Nichols the following restrictions: to refrain from all contact with minors; to cease all public ministry; to avoid all places and situations that, from past experience, have been occasions of serious temptation in the area of sexual morality; and revoking the faculty to hear confession. (57676)
- 8/16/95 Nichols letter to Weakland asking permission to baptize his niece's infant daughter. Handwritten notes to Weakland direct Barbian to call Nichols and say it is okay. (19550)
- 12/28/95 Sklba letter to Nichols stating that Weakland is willing to restore permission for Nichols to celebrate the Eucharist on a regular basis at Visitation Convent in Elm Grove, effective January 1, 1996 (19552)

1/1/96 Sklba Precept to Nichols allowing the following modification to his faculties: the public celebration of Eucharist on a regular basis at Visitation Convent, Elm Grove. (19554)

1/17/96 Sklba letter to Nichols enclosing the document which effected the changes to his exercise of ministry. (19553)

7/25/96 – Deceased

7/26/96 Notice regarding Nichols' death on July 25, 1996. (19473)

12/9/99 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting abuse by Nichols when the individual was 10-14 years old at the Stress Management Clinic in West Allis in approximately 1977-1981. (123888); (36097)

12/02 Report of abuse by Nichols that occurred in 1978. (36097)

3/9/02 Vicar Log Entry No. 131. Sklba was approached by Fr. Thomas Brundage indicating he had a conversation with a woman who mentioned in passing that two of her sons had been abused by Nichols during his time at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish. (33620)

4/8/02 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting abuse by Nichols when the individual was 13 years old at St. Aloysius Church in approximately 1975-1976. Survivor reported it first to his parents, then the Archbishop. Victim Assistance Coordinator offered financial assistance with therapy and information about support groups. (36104-05)

4/18/2002 Reinke Note to File. Former priest called Reinke to inform her that he was a priest from 1969 to 1974. He stated knowledge of Nichols molesting servers in 1971, and would be willing to attest to that as needed. (19564)

4/29/02 Reinke Note to File. Individual states that Nichols sexually abused him 12 year old in 1969. Individual states that after the first incident of abuse, he told his parents and they met with the pastor. (32513)

6/3/02 Sklba letter to parents of individual who reported on 4/29/02 expressing sadness upon learning of the sexual abuse of their son. (32512)

10/23/02 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting abuse by Nichols when the individual was approximately 11-12 years old in 1978 at St. Augustine. Victim Assistance Coordinator offered financial assistance with therapy. (123888)

6/2/03 Letter (from person who originally reported on 4/8/02) to Cusack, Sklba and Dolan regarding preparation for Restorative Justice Meeting on July 10. Indicates the individual understood he would be provided with the resources he needed to understand the facts surrounding his abuse, but the meeting is five weeks away and he has not received anything. Indicates he needs Nichols' complete work, abuse and treatment history. (36113)

- 11/20/03 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting report of abuse by Nichols when the individual was 6-7 years old in 1959-1960 at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Waterford. Victim Assistance Coordinator offered financial assistance with therapy and will report back to the individual on details about Fr. Nichols. (123888). On November 21, 2003 Reinke called the Abuse Survivor to go over Nichols's chronology. (36700)
- 1/1/04 Dolan letter to abuse survivor who reported on 4/29/02 indicating dispute resolution services will be available in January, Catholic Charities is offering a support group, financial assistance with psychotherapy remains available, and he is continuing to meet with victim-survivors. (32510-11)
- 1/4/04 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting abuse by Nichols in approximately 1968 when the individual was 14 years old at St. Mary's Academy. (123888)
- 1/20/04 Weakland letter to individual who reported on 4/8/02 apologizing for the pain and suffering their family has felt as a result of the sexual abuse by Nichols. (36099)
- 2/12/04 Reinke letter to individual who previously reported indicating that the Clergy Sexual Abuse Mediation System is addressing the needs of restitution and urging them to register. (33626)
- 2/19/04 Reinke letter to individual who reported on 4/29/02 indicating the John Jay Study results will soon be released. (32508-09)
- 7/8/04 Dolan letter to individual who reported on 4/29/02 indicating that he has authorized the release of names of priests who are now or would have been restricted from all priestly ministries. (32507)
- 7/21/04 Agreement and Mutual Release made between [redacted] and the Archdiocese for \$100,000. (56473-75)
- 5/19/05 Agreement and Mutual Release made between [redacted] and the Archdiocese for abuse by Nichols and Wagner for \$101,164. (56589-91)
- 7/16/10 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting abuse by Nichols when the individual was 8 years old in 1970-1971 at St. Sebastian's Parish in Milwaukee. (123888)
- Undated Handwritten notes regarding Nichols state: "common knowledge in 7th + 8th grades . . . 15 to 20 boys involved, according to Mother." (19492)
- Undated Nichols Assignment history. (36097)
- Undated Notes indicate financial and non-financial needs/claims of survivor. Discusses written apologies from Weakland and payment for counseling. The Archdiocese and the individual entered into a settlement agreement in 2004. Archbishop Weakland wrote to the Abuse Survivor on January 20, 2004 apologizing to the abuse survivor for the pain the abuse survivor suffered as a result of the abuse and for the Church's failing to grasp how serious the harm of sexual abuse can be. (36138); (36099)

- Undated “Mike” letter to “Ralph” indicating Nichols will continue to celebrate Mass several times a week for the sisters at Elm Grove until Easter, then he will go to his cottage in the Madison Diocese. Indicates the diocese may have to pursue or indicate that they have outlined a program of evaluation and counseling for Nichols. (19536)
- Undated Proposed Archdiocese Restorative Justice Process for past cases of clergy sexual abuse. (36119-21)
- Undated Chronology of Nichols’ assignments. (1332)