

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING JAMES BECK¹

5/24/69 - Ordination

5/23/69 Cousins letter to Beck appointing him Associate Pastor at St. Gregory the Great Parish, Milwaukee, effective June 17, 1969. (10435)

5/26/69 Cousins letter to Beck apologizing for the mistake in his previous assignment letter and appointing him Associate Pastor at Holy Name Parish, Sheboygan, effective June 17, 1969. (10436)

6/17/69 - Associate Pastor, Holy Name Parish, Sheboygan, WI

6/22/71 Cousins letter to Beck appointing him District Director for the Catholic Youth Organization, District 7, effective immediately. (10437)

6/22/71 – District Director for the Catholic Youth Organization, District 7

5/27/77 Cousins letter to Beck transferring him from Holy Name Parish to St. Robert Parish, Milwaukee, effective June 14, 1977. (10438)

6/14/77 - Associate Pastor, St. Robert Parish, Milwaukee, WI

7/19/77 Letter to Beck expressing thanks for work as District Director of Sheboygan County for CYO. (10439)

5/24/78 Weakland letter to Beck assigning him Associate Pastor at St. James Parish, Mequon, effective June 13, 1978. (10441)

6/13/78 - Associate Pastor, St. James, Mequon, WI

6/1/84 Weakland letter to Beck assigning him to St. Catherine (Granville) Parish in Milwaukee, effective June 19, 1984. (10582)

6/19/84 - Pastor, St. Catherine (Granville) Parish, Milwaukee, WI

7/7/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 665. Sklba spoke with Ozaukee County agent conducting investigation into Rusk County incident who reported having spoken with Beck's therapist who said he did not anticipate recurrence but could not promise the same with certainty given human nature. Nevertheless, agent stated that the investigation was complete and no further action was anticipated given the good level of cooperation from Beck and the Archdiocese. (25575)

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.

- 8/27/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 844. “[A]s a result of the expression of several parishioners who concluded that [Beck] was under enormous pressure and was unable to cope with his administrative responsibilities this summer,” Sklba spoke to Beck about going to an evaluation program in early October. (10591)
- 9/5/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 861. Sklba visited Beck at St. Catherine’s to discuss the allegation made. While Beck denied involvement, he agreed to enter an assessment program. (10591)
- 12/13/88 Beck letter to Weakland asking him to accept his resignation from St. Catherine’s effective December 31, 1988. Letter indicates Beck spoke at length to Sklba of the situation and the reasons for his decision to resign, including personal health issues that must be attended to in the immediate future. (25426)

1/1/89 – Sick Leave (10630)

- 1/4/89 Weakland letter to Beck formally accepting his resignation from St. Catherine’s. (25428)
- 5/8/89 Vicar Log Entry No. 512. Sklba met with Bishop Leo and Weakland to review cases, including Beck’s. Determined that prior to any specialized assignment (which would involve a detailed plan, including a therapeutic support group, ongoing supervision, counseling, and some type of spiritual life), must have a candid conversation with Beck to see if there were any matters still not disclosed or discussed from earlier history. (25579)

6/1/89 – Staff Member of the Metropolitan Tribunal, Milwaukee, WI (25434)

- 6/1/89 Adjustments regarding Beck’s employment, discontinuing billing St. Michael’s priest fund for Beck’s insurance effective June 1 and stating that Beck has been appointed staff member of the Metropolitan Tribunal Office of the Archdiocese. (10419-10418)
- 6/2/89 Weakland letter to Beck requesting he become staff at Metropolitan Tribunal effective June 1, 1989. (25434)
- 6/23/89 Vicar Log Entry No. 665. Indicates there was discussion with Sklba and Beck about him residing at St. Barbara Parish rectory. (25579)
- 1/10/90 Vicar Log Entry No. 53. Sklba told Beck he did not see parish ministry a realistic possibility for the near future and inquiring about his current satisfaction with Tribunal work. (25579)

7/20/90 – Administrative Leave (10630)

- 7/26/90 Vicar Log Entry No. 596. Sklba met with Beck after the civil lawsuit is filed and indicates if there was any more publicity or further legal action Beck would be forbidden to exercise public sacramental ministry. He will remain at St. Barbara for the time being. (25579)
- 8/4/1990 Sklba memorandum regarding Beck. Mentions that Sklba met with a male survivor on 5/14/88 regarding allegations of misconduct involving Beck that occurred in 1982 at St. James in Mequon. Sklba recommends immediate referral to law enforcement and asked if the survivor felt any need for personal counseling, both of which are refused. Sklba then met with Beck on 5/20/88 to inform Beck that he was obligated to speak with civil authorities about the 1982 incident and to insist that Beck seek counseling. At that time, Beck informed Sklba that he had been receiving ongoing counseling as a result of an earlier incident in 1971 in Sheboygan, which had not been known to Sklba prior to 5/20/88. Beck's candor and the circumstances led Sklba to conclude that there did not seem to be any immediate danger to innocent parties, and therefore he did not judge it necessary to remove Beck from St. Catherine's at that time or invoke administrative leave. Once Sklba determined that the survivor was 18, he contacted the Ozaukee County Social Services and was promised someone would be sent for an interview. Sklba also called Beck and indicated he had informed Social Services and that Beck should obtain the services of a personal lawyer. Sklba then met with Beck on 5/25/88 to outline the actions required and to be assured that Beck was following through with Sklba's requests. On 5/27/88, Sklba talked to the survivor's brother about the actions being taken, and the brother was satisfied that the survivor's wishes were being respected. On 7/7/88, Sklba talked to Ozaukee County investigator who advised that investigation was complete and no further action was anticipated. On 8/17/88, Sklba was informed of a report that Beck made an obscene phone call to a female on 7/13/88. Given the circumstantial evidence of the allegation, Sklba consulted with Beck's doctor, who offered the professional opinion that such a call was highly unlikely. Sklba notes that throughout this time period, he discussed various non-parochial future ministry for Beck and ultimately asked Beck to resign from the pastorate of St. Catherine's in Granville effective December 31, 1988, for a variety of reasons, including personal health and stress as well as allegations which had surfaced and compromised his ministry. On 7/20/90, Canon 1722 is invoked and Beck is placed on administrative leave from Tribunal work upon presentation of a summons to the Archdiocese and Beck indicating commencement of a legal action. (25589-25591)
- 8/16/90 Sklba letter to Beck recommending administrative leave according to Canon 1722 based on the expressed intention in initiating legal action, effective July 20, 1990. (10586)
- 2/8/91 Matthew Flynn letter to Jeff Anderson enclosing settlement checks in the amount of \$300,000 with joint motion and order for dismissal with prejudice. (10493-10494)

- 2/9/91 Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release between the Archdiocese and John Doe, which also releases St. James in Mequon. (25462-25470)
- 3/1/91 Vicar Log Entry No. 36. Sklba met with Beck. Indicates Joe Perry was willing to accept Beck back into full-time work with the Tribunal, "The only stipulation would be the need to reassess the assignment should some negative publicity appear in the future." (25582)
- 3/12/91 Clergy Personnel Action Notice indicating Beck's position as Tribunal effective April 1, 1991. (25488)

4/1/91 – Staff Member, Tribunal, Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI

- 5/13/91 Sklba memo to Perry indicating that he presumes that Beck's term with the Tribunal will run through June 1993. (25573)

1992 – Unassigned

- 1992 In the course of setting up policies and procedures to address sexual abuse cases, the Archdiocese reviews Beck's file and determines that he should not be able to function in any capacity as a priest. He is removed from his desk job and ministry is taken away from him. (29827)
- 10/28/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 656. Sklba indicates the Archbishop met with Beck to request that he cease public liturgical ministry and remove himself from interviewing individuals requesting the assistance of the Tribunal, pending a final resolution of his status. (25582)
- 11/23/92 Beck letter to Weakland regarding the Archdiocese's request for Beck to move for laicization. (25538)
- 12/2/92 Weakland letter to Beck stating that he cannot see any possibility of Beck returning to any kind of pastoral ministry, even weekend help-outs, and suggests Beck consider "beginning a whole new life and work." (25537)
- 1/15/93 Perry letter to Weakland indicating he has talked with Beck about his situation and feels that June 30 should be a target date. Perry indicated that previous options for schooling or working in the Tribunal are no longer options for Beck. (25541-25542)
- 7/9/93 Weakland letter to Beck stating that he wants to do what is best for the whole Catholic community and therefore does not see how he could assign Beck to any pastoral ministry in the future. Also sets forth guidelines, such as to refrain from all unsupervised contact with minors, cease all public ministry, and avoid all places, persons, and situations that have been occasions of serious temptation in

the area of sexual morality. Weakland has determined that the Archdiocese needs to undergo a process to determine whether Beck will be declared impeded from future exercise of ministry. (25545-25548)

- 11/19/93 Clergy Personnel memorandum to Weakland summarizing the contents of Sklba's 8/4/90 memorandum regarding Beck. (25592)
- 12/2/93 Weakland letter to Beck indicating that he'd hoped the Catholic Bishops' Committee on Canon Law would have issued their guidelines on how bishops should deal with allegations of sexual misconduct before he had to deal with the issue locally. He gives Beck until the end of January to decide whether to utilize a judicial or administrative process regarding the decision on whether Beck should be allowed to continue his ministry. All restrictions continue. (25553)
- 1/24/94 Beck letter to Weakland indicating his preference for a formal canonical trial with Daniel Ward, O.S.B. as his advocate. (25502)
- 3/30/94 Weakland letter to Ward indicating no assignment to ministry possible due to the nature of past events. (10571)
- 9/2/94 Weakland letter to Ward stating that he has no intention of providing Beck with an assignment and might consider listing Beck's status as "disabled" in conjunction with a decree declaring him impeded from exercise of orders. Regardless of Beck's decision, Weakland will start the process of having Beck declared impeded. (25574)
- 9/30/94 Weakland letter to Ward reiterating that he does not envision any possibility of providing Beck with a formal position or assignment. (10524)
- 1/4/95 Flynn letter to Ward enclosing a proposed settlement agreement; cc: Weakland and Sklba. (55884)
- 2/17/95 Letter from Quarles & Brady regarding Beck's settlement payment. (55899)
- 2/18/95 Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release between Beck and the Archdiocese stating that the Archdiocese will pay Beck \$25,000 and Beck will sign a letter of resignation. (10520-10523)
- 2/18/95 Beck letter to Weakland stating he has decided to voluntarily leave the priesthood. (10519)
- 2/20/95 Weakland Decree withdrawing Beck's faculties based on Beck's statement declaring his intention to withdraw permanently from priestly ministry. (10535)
- 2/20/95 – Permanent Leave (10630)

- 3/7/97 Letter to Beck from Vicar for Clergy advising that Beck is no longer covered under the Archdiocese's insurance plan. (10624)
- 7/3/02 Tiffin memo to McCann regarding Beck and Haen and the individual who was abused who settled in 1991. Individual reports being abused by Beck in 1979 on a camping trip. Survivor reported that Weakland and Sklba told individual's mother that Beck would be removed from contact with families and would receive counseling. Last individual knew of Beck, he was a priest at St. Catherine. He did not know where Beck was currently located, and wanted Beck "on [their] radar." (10541-10542)
- 7/9/02 Cusack letter to McCann enclosing the a summary report regarding Beck and the actions taken back when the allegations first came forth. Further states that Beck left ministry in 1995 and is no longer functioning as a priest. (10543)
- 2/12/04 Dolan letter to Ratzinger sending him cases of priests in accord with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth and The Essential Norms whose life situations are such that canonical trial or administrative dismissal would be unreasonable. Asking that these priests be permitted to live their life in prayer and penance. Included in letter are outlines of allegations and assignments and actions taken against Beck, which mention that in the course of confronting the allegation of abuse that occurred in 1982, Beck admitted the incident in 1971 and indicated that he was in mandatory counseling, had been on probation, and was ordered to have no unsupervised contact with minors. Also reveals Beck was asked to resign from pastorate in 1988 and considered for a non-parochial assignment, placed on administrative leave once the civil law suit was filed in 1990, subject of a request not to function in any ministerial capacity in 1992, and entered a binding legal contract to perform any ministry or present as a cleric in 1995. (39323; 39327-39328)
- 12/23/04 Peterson letter offering payment of outpatient psychotherapy for a survivor and stating that the Archdiocese is committed to providing financial assistance for high quality psychotherapy to all survivors of sexual abuse by church personnel. (32305-32306)
- 1/21/05 Dolan letter to survivor stating his opinion that for many reasons, "many [survivors] of child sexual abuse often do not report the abuse when the incident occurs," commending a man for recently reporting sexual abuse by a Catholic priest, and noting that it takes tremendous courage for male survivors to come forward. Dolan asks that the survivor take these things are taken into consideration regarding a survivor's choices and why he has made them. The abuser is not named in this letter. (32302)
- 3/2/05 Agreement to Mediate regarding perpetrator Beck. (56753-56754)

- 3/19/05 Cusack letter enclosing a copy of the Settlement Agreement Mutual Release with a survivor regarding sexual abuse by Beck and a check from the trust account totaling \$105,000. (56640-56643)
- 11/23/09 Callahan letter to Morlino in Madison stating that Beck is “Charter” priest of the Archdiocese that has moved into Morlino’s diocese. Beck has a substantiated case of sexual misconduct and has complied with all restrictions placed on him and has been under regular monitoring for years. (25587)
- Undated Adult male accuses Beck of sexual abuse that occurred in 1982 when accuser was still a minor. This is the case discussed in Sklba’s 8/4/90 memo that was investigated by Ozaukee County. During the course of that investigation, Beck was placed on administrative leave, and the Archdiocese learned that Beck had previously been convicted of a similar offense in 1971, about which the Archdiocese had not been previously informed by either Beck or the Sheboygan County courts or authorities. The 1988 investigation resulted in substantiation and Beck was asked for resignation from the parish and given a desk job after the court case was resolved. After civil suit is filed in 1990, Beck is placed on administrative leave. He returned to his desk job for a short time in 1991. Beck agreed to the removal of all his priestly rights and has not functioned as a priest since 1995. (29827)