

## TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING S. JOSEPH COLLOVA<sup>1</sup>

5/30/76 – Ordination

6/15/77 – Associate Pastor, Holy Apostles Church, New Berlin, WI (7910)

4/22/81 Vicar Log Entry No. \_\_\_\_ - Received Collova's periodic review, which indicates that Collova needs some type of outside help regarding his assignments. (8153)

5/26/81 Appointed Associate Pastor at St. James Parish, Franklin, WI effective June 16. (7941)

6/16/81 – Associate Pastor, St. James Parish, Franklin, WI

4/26/84 Letter from Sklba to Weakland saying Sklba accompanied Collova to Wausau to receive the final report from Collova's visit there last month. Agreed that it was wise for Collova to leave St. James parish and be placed on temporary leave of absence for health reasons in order to sort out the various problems described in the report. (7965)

4/26/85 Letter from Sklba to Collova approving his temporary leave of absence for health reasons. (7964)

5/1/85 Vicar Log Entry No. 38 - Sklba writes that Collova called to say that he was questioned by the Franklin Police Dept. because he was accused of sexual assault. Matter is now in the hands of the Milwaukee County District Attorney. (8151)

6/11/85 – Temporary Leave of Absence

9/15/85 Letter from Sklba to Collova assigning Bethany House as his residence and placing him on sick leave. (7967)

11/13/85 Letter from Rev. Ralph C. Gross, Vice-Chancellor, to Collova appointing him Temporary Administrator of St. Rita Parish in Milwaukee effective 11/20/1985. (7966)

11/20/85 – Temporary Administrator, St. Rita Parish, Milwaukee

4/10/86 Letter from Collova's therapist saying that Collova is finished with therapy and has learned to cope with stress and "set limits for himself." They have explored and discussed the "incident" that occurred at St. James and she feels confident that it was a false accusation. They also discussed "the psychological meaning of Collova's close relationship with adolescents at St. James, i.e. his desire at that

---

<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.

time to have a family of his own. Fr. Collova has worked this through and no longer has the same psychological needs.” (7971)

6/8/86 Letter from Weakland to Collova appointing him Pastor at St. Rita Parish in Milwaukee effective immediately. (7968)

6/8/86 – Pastor, St. Rita Parish, Milwaukee

12/18/92 Memo from Mary Kay Balchunas to Fr. Tom Venne documenting a report that she received the morning of 12/18/92 from a man reporting prior abuse by Collova. The man was abused when he was 17-18 at St. James in Franklin, WI. The survivor is concerned that Collova continues to have close relationships with altar boys at St. Rita’s. The man reporting abuse does not want his abuse reported to the police. (7989)

1/6/93 Vicar Log Entry No. 23. RTV met with Collova and informed him of an allegation against him. Collova denied the allegation but agreed to tell his staff about the allegation and agreed not to have any unsupervised contact with minors at this time. Accuser indicated that he felt the Archdiocese responded very responsibly and was grateful for the response. (8148)

1/15/93 Letter from Rev. Thomas A. Trepanier to contact at St. Luke Institute, saying there is an allegation against Collova concerning inappropriate behavior with a 17-18 year old against and possibly 6 other such situations. Collova is being sent to St. Luke and is open to an evaluation regarding any sexual allegations. (7988)

3/4/93 Letter from Collova to Rev. Thomas Venne, Vicar for Clergy Personnel, discussing Collova’s conversation with a “behavior scientist” whom he spoke with after she talked to an individual who accused Collova of abuse. Collova denied the allegations. Collova says he has previously told Tom, Sklba, and Trepanier that he should be told what he is accused of. The behavior scientist “gave [Collova] the impression of another allegation” and seems to think that more accusers may be coming forward. (7997-7998)

3/23/93 Letter from Servants of the Paraclete to Collova confirming Collova’s admission in the St. Michael’s Community Program on 4/18/93. (8009)

4/18/93 – Servants of the Paraclete

5/13/93 Handwritten letter from Collova to Rev. Venne asking him to initiate the laicization process. (8012)

5/28/93 Letter from Rev. Venne to Collova saying Weakland will begin the investigation Collova requested. Also mentions Collova’s request to begin the laicization process. (8011)

- 6/2/93 Letter from Collova to Rev. Venne, says he is in his 9<sup>th</sup> week in the Paraclete community and feels it's time to tell his family what happened. (8010)
- 6/11/93 Letter from Sklba to "Friends" addressed to St. Rita Parish, Milwaukee, respecting Collova's request for a temporary leave of absence. (8014)
- 7/1/93 Vicar Log Entry No. 417. Sklba spoke with Collova, suspended his faculties for public ministry and instructed him not to return to his assignment at St. Rita's or engage in any youth ministry in Minnesota. (8142)
- 7/8/93 Memo from Barbara Anne Cusack to "Emergency Intervention" Committee designating responsibilities and a timeline regarding Fr. Collova. Responsibilities include: prepare a message to read at masses, contact parish staff, act as spokesman with the media if needed, and review Collova's personnel file to clarify status of assignment. (8015)
- 7/9/93 Letter from Sklba to parishioners of St. Rita saying that Collova is on a leave of absence and they are investigating an allegation of misconduct. (8017)
- 8/18/93 Vicar Log Entry No. 504. Sklba received a report that Collova had been residing in St. Rita's Rectory on occasion, contrary to stipulations. (8139)
- 9/3/93 Memo to Weakland advising him that someone filed suit today and Collova is still spending time at "that rectory." "We do not need to see Collova's face in the media coming out of that rectory." (8028)
- 9/24/93 Memo from Collova's psychologist to Weakland expressing concern that Collova is still living on the East Side, has maintained his old contacts, and because of his uncooperativeness and denial, there are no assurances that JC does not continue to sexually act out with minors. She recommends an out-patient therapy program and supervision. (8201)
- 2/7/95 Memo to Weakland, Sklba and Straub describing psychologist's interview with Joseph Collova about allegations of sexual misconduct with minors. Collova denied that he is a pedophile but admitted engaging in mutual masturbation with an adult, that he has poor boundaries, and that he was in bed with a minor. (8407-8408)
- 2/16/95 Letter from Weakland to Collova listing the evidence against him, including 1985 allegations that Collova molested a 14-year-old where the D.A. declined to bring charges. (8464) Weakland says he cannot reassign Collova because he cannot guarantee that inappropriate behavior would not occur. (28183-28186)
- 11/17/95 Letter from Carrol Straub saying that Weakland has partially lifted the restrictions placed on Collova for ministry. Collova will be given permission to do help-out work on weekends in parishes of the Archdiocese. (8050)

- 12/5/95 Letter from Carrol Straub to Collova regarding his new help-out position in Wilmot. (8051)
- 4/13/96 Vicar Log Entry No. 372. Sklba received a report that Collova had concelebrated Easter Vigil Mass without permission in spite of lack of faculties. (8135)
- 5/21/96 Vicar Log Entry No. 141. The Archdiocese refused request for Collova to concelebrate a funeral at St. Rita Parish. (8135)
- 8/14/96 Vicar Log Entry No. 214. Collova's request for permission to celebrate mass in specific parishes or communities is denied. (8135)
- 3/14/97 Letter from Weakland to Collova discussing compensation and noting that the Archdiocese has been paying his legal fees, which amount to over \$10,000. Weakland also say that it is important that he have an outside evaluation for there to be any possibility of future ministry. (8066-8067)
- 4/4/97 Letter from the clinical director to Rev. Carrol Straub confirming that Collova is scheduled to be evaluated in April 1997. (28373)
- 4/4/97 Signed request for authorization of information allowing psychologist to release Collova's evaluation results and information to the Archdiocese. Notes that Collova is undergoing an evaluation for allegations of sexual misconduct, and fitness for ministerial assignment. (28377)
- 4/9/97 Letter from Sister Kathleen Schweihs, Archdiocese to Collova's doctor at Southdown including signed release form, St. Luke's assessment, and 1985 evaluation. Notes that the report from St. Michael's Community should be requested directly from St. Michael's Community. (8078) Fax cover sheet from Straub to Southdown, says 24 pages are included. (8079)
- 4/18/97 Memo from Collova's psychologist summarizing the Southdown evaluation of Collova. No anal, oral, or other direct sexual actions were noted. The summary says that Collova admitted that a teenager would sleep on top of him and he did not think this was inappropriate. Ultimately the report recommends outpatient or residential treatment prior to any assignment. (8414-8417)
- 9/10/97 Letter from Weakland to Collova saying he is hesitant to assign Collova to ministry. He lists prerequisites that must be done before Collova can return to ministry: long-term therapeutic treatment addressing his boundary issues and psychosexual immaturity; he must show signs of responsible behavior; he must address his frequent vacillations about ministry. (8092-8093)
- 11/4/97 Letter from Matthew Flynn to Paul Gossens with a settlement offer regarding Collova. If he is willing to voluntarily seek laicization the Archdiocese would

pay for 18 months of his healthcare and a lump sum of \$20,000 or continued health care through age 65. (8098-8099)

- 3/26/02 Letter from Collova to Pope John Paul II mentioning that he has denied an allegation of “sexual impropriety” and has decided that he is “a burden on the Archdiocese.” He requests relief of priestly duties and vows. (8392)
- 8/16/02 Letter from Sklba to The Congregation for Divine Worship and The Discipline of the Sacraments submitting Collova’s petition for laicization. The letter outlines the Archdiocese’s steps after receiving a report from a Collova survivor in 1992. Their actions include initiating an investigation, entering Collova into treatment, and limiting Collova’s ministry. (28494-28496)
- 8/19/02 Letter from James Connell to the Apostolic Nuncio to the US enclosing a petition from Collova to Pope John Paul II requesting laicization. (8317-8352)
- 8/23/02 [Appears to be mis-dated 8/23/01] Letter from Arch. Gabriel Montalvo Apostolic Nuncio to Fr. Connell confirming receipt of the petition for laicization of Collova. (8386)
- 10/14/02 Letter from Collova to a doctor at Project Benjamin denying sexual abuse and detailing other incidents that he reports witnessing. (8160-8161)
- 4/12/03 Memo from Rev. James E. Connell documenting Collova’s laicization process over the past year. (8155-8156)
- 7/16/03 Letter from Collova to Pope John Paul II asking to be relieved of his priestly duties. (8403)
- 9/22/03 Letter from Dolan to Ratzinger submitting Collova’s petition for laicization to the CDF and explaining the 1992 allegation against Collova. (8454-8456)
- 6/21/04 Letter from Cusack to Bishop James Alan Wilkowski of the Evangelical Catholic Diocese of the Northwest informing Wilkowski of Collova’s history, allegations against him, psychological reports, and issues with boundaries with minors, despite Collova’s threats to bring a lawsuit against the ADOM. The letter also says that the Archdiocese of Milwaukee cannot offer Collova an assignment, but if Wilkowski decides to accept him, to let Milwaukee know. (28122-28123)
- 6/28/04 Email with excerpt from Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article saying that Collova, “a former Roman Catholic priest,” will be incardinated into the Evangelical Catholic Diocese of the Northwest. (49027)
- 7/1/04 Decree signed by Dolan saying that a serious offense may have been committed and an investigation has been opened against Collova regarding reports of his schism with the Catholic Church. (8429)

- 7/3/04 Letter from Rev. Paul Hartmann to Collova informing him of the investigation into the circumstances of Collova's relationship to the Independent Evangelical Catholic Church in America. Says that it appears Collova entered an ecclesiastical relationship with this community despite still being an incardinated cleric of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. (8428)
- 7/16/04 Vicar Log Entry No. 330 - Sklba received a report that Collova officiated at a non-Eucharistic service on March 29, despite his restriction from public ministry and presenting himself as a Catholic priest, and contrary to canonical precept. (28477)
- 7/23/04 Decree of Excommunication. (8426)
- 8/30/04 Vicar Log Entry No. 404. Sklba received a report that Collova officiated at a "backyard baptism," apparently giving the impression of representing the Catholic Church. (49024)
- [UNDATED] Handwritten note indicates that on 4/8/71, Collova was denied admission to major seminary, interrupting his studies for 1 year, based on reasons not spelled out in a letter. (28327)
- [UNDATED] Handwritten note indicates that on 11/14/83, "letters of complaint" were received from parishioners. (28328)
- [UNDATED] Handwritten note indicates that on 5/1/85, Collova was questioned by the police department and accused of sexual assault by a "14-year-old vagrant" and that the Milwaukee County D.A. was reviewing charges. (28328)