



**Robert Blumeyer, OSB**

**When the priest denies abuse, even Superiors do not believe him**

**Abbey spokesman told press “no other complaints” despite 40 years of allegations against priest**

The first complaint of sexual abuse against Fr. Robert Blumeyer surfaced in 1976. Although Blumeyer denied abusing the boy, Abbot John Eidenschink told the priest that he “can’t accept his denial.” Blumeyer was sent out of state, studied in Chicago, and underwent a psychiatric evaluation. Archbishop John Roach told Blumeyer that things were fine at the moment, but “if this should become public, and if there appears to be some scandal, I would feel that we would have to review the issue at that time.”

A year later, the priest was back in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and then moved to the Diocese of St. Cloud. Blumeyer died in 1983.

By 2005, Blumeyer victims were coming forward and St. John’s and the Archdiocese had a budding scandal on their hands. In a letter between Abbot John Klassen and Fr. Kevin McDonough, the Abbot debated about whether they should even participate with a law enforcement investigation. A few months later, a St. John’s Abbey spokesman told the St. Cloud newspaper that Abbot Klassen only knew of one allegation against Blumeyer, although allegations spanned back 40 years. It wasn’t until 2013 that Blumeyer was added to the Archdiocese list of clergy accused of abuse.

## REVEREND ROBERT BLUMEYER OSB TIMELINE

- 6/11/22 Born
- 7/11/50 Professed Monastic Vows at Saint John's Abbey
- 3/19/56 Ordained a priest
- 1956-1965 Associate Pastor at Saint Boniface in Hastings, MN.
- 1965 -1968 Associate Pastor at Saint Augustine in Saint Cloud, MN.
- 1968-1969 Associate Pastor at St. Benedict's Parish in Bronx, NY for the Archdiocese of New York.
- 1969 -1972 Associate Pastor at St. Bartholomew in Wayzata MN. In 1971, he became pastor at St. Bartholomew.
- 6/19/73 -1978 Pastor at St. Boniface in Hastings, MN.
- 6/2/76 Letter from Msgr. Arthur Durand to Archbishop John Roach about meeting with the mother of a survivor abused by Blumeyer. The man was a minor when he was abused by Blumeyer in the rectory. (ARCH 9829-9830)
- 6/4/76 Letter from Roach to Durand- "it seems to me to be essential that Father Robert receive some treatment. It would be a shame to allow him to destroy himself." (ARCH 9828)
- 6/11/76 Letter from Abbot Eidenschink to Archbishop Roach about the allegations against Blumeyer. The Abbot spoke to Blumeyer: "**Father Robert has denied the charges made against him, but I regret to say that I cannot accept his denial.**" "I may ask Bishop Speltz to assign him to one of our parishes in this diocese." (ARCH 9831)
- 6/30/76 Letter from Archbishop Roach to Abbot Eidenschink- "I think it is important that he understand the problem if these people should go public." Expresses concern for scandal should this become public. (ARCH 9817)
- 7/8/76 Letter from Abbot Eidenschink to Archbishop Roach- "**in view of your willingness to permit Father Robert to continue as pastor of St. Boniface in Hastings, if I judge this to be best under the circumstances, I have concluded that he ought to remain at Hastings but under certain conditions.**" Conditions include that he take a sabbatical for 3-4 months, during which he have another psychiatric evaluation and also arrange for a retreat.
- "I am hopeful that the matter in question will not become public and above all that there will be no scandal." (ARCH 9790-9791)

- 7/20/76 Letter from Archbishop Roach to Abbot Eidenschink, agreeing with keeping Blumeyer in Hastings and to the conditions. (ARCH 9809)
- 10/2/76 Letter from Abbot Eidenschink to Archbishop Roach. Blumeyer is attending Loyola University in Chicago studying theology and living at Saint Jerome's parish. (ARCH 9810)
- 12/12/77 Letter from Chancellor Kinney to Blumeyer appointing him as Administrator at the Church of Guardian Angels in Hastings but not published in Catholic Spirit. (ARCH 9778)
- 5/26/78 Letter from Abbot Eidenschink to Archbishop Roach removing Blumeyer from St. Boniface in Hastings. (ARCH 9802-9803)
- 1978 -1982 Pastor at St. Benedicts in Avon, MN in the Diocese of St. Cloud.
- 1982-1983 Pastor at St. Catherine's in Farming, MN in the Diocese of St. Cloud.
- 10/5/83 Died
- 7/30/97 Letter from a survivor reporting abuse by Blumeyer to the Archdiocese. Kevin McDonough interprets as Robert Blumeyer OSB and sends to Abbot Timothy Kelly OSB at Saint John's. (ARCH-9858-9865)
- 10/31/05 Letter from McDonough to Abbot Klassen relating a conversation he had with a survivor of Blumeyer. The survivor said that Blumeyer took nude photographs of him and allowed other priests to take similar photographs of him, before sexually abusing him. (ARCH 9839-9840)
- 11/28/05 Letter from Abbot Klassen to McDonough. "...it is very possible that Father Robert Blumeyer OSB did abuse REDACTED over a period of ten years. Could you have someone check the archives of the Archdiocese...**I would like to have an extended conversation with you to discuss payment, compensation, nature and scope of separate or joint investigations of allegations and whether the Archdiocese is willing to participate in a report to law enforcement.**" (ARCH 009869-9870)
- 5/25/06 Father William Skudlarek OSB, Abbey Spokesman, tells the Saint Cloud Times, "**The Abbot (John Klassen) does not know, this point, of any other allegations of abuse against Father Blumeyer.**" (ARCH 9818-1919)
- 7/14/06 Letter from survivor to Abbot John Klassen writing about his sexual abuse by Blumeyer in Hastings in June 1976. (ARCH 9813-9815)
- 12/9/13 Blumeyer named as one of the monks who likely offended against minors released by Saint John's.