Fr. Bruce Wollmering, OSB Timeline

November 2, 1940  Born, Luverne William Wollmering

May 25, 1958  Graduates from Saint John’s Preparatory School

July 10, 1960  Saint John’s Abbey Novitiate

October 6, 1960  Novice Autobiography. (OSB Wollmering_00009-00011)

May 30, 1963  B.A. Saint John’s University

1963-1967  Saint John’s Seminary

July 11, 1964  Professes vows as Monk of Saint John’s Abbey (OSB Wollmering_00014-00019)

June 7, 1967  Ordained Priest by Bishop Peter Bartholeme. (OSB Wollmering _00031)


1969 -1970  University of Arizona in Tucson. MA. In Psychology (OSB Wollmering_00035-54)

1970-1972  Saint John’s Preparatory School Counselor

1972-1973  Saint John’s Abbey Novice Master

1974  Director Saint John’s University Counseling center with Finian McDonald OSB, Anthony Tabor PhD. (OSB Wollmering_00055-00064)

1975-1978- Arizona


September 26, 1976  Begins internship at U of A hospital and family clinic in Benson, AZ continuing masses at Benedictine nunnery. (OSB Wollmering_00077)

1978  Clinical Hypnotist. (OSB Wollmering_00130-131)

1979  Saint John’s University Professor and Counseling Services

1979-2003  Conducting Human Sexuality group for 16 students every semester. (OSB Wollmering_00253)

January 1, 1980  State of Minnesota grants license for Clinical Pscyhology. (OSB Wollmering_00099)

1985-1986  Academic Leave at U of A in Tucson, AZ.

February 18, 1986  Attends Esalen Institute in Big Sur, CA. (OSB Wollmering_00106, 00115)

1990-1991  Jungian Institute, Zurich Switzerland.

April 22, 1994  Chair of University Psychology Department, Counseling Center.
February 19, 2003  Human rights complaint by SJU student. (OSB Wollmering_00235)

February 20, 2003  Nadine Schettner, Associate Director of Human Resources CSB/SJU notes that Wollmering stopped by her office to discuss the student’s complaint against him. She says she is disappointed Wollmering did not appear to take ownership of the problem. She says “tried making it appear like it’s the student’s problem – not his.” Wollmering attributes the complaint to “homophobia” and a “stressful time of year” for the student. Schettner said Wollmering’s reaction is unfortunate but not surprising given her experience with other human rights complaints. (OSB Wollmering_00238)

February 24, 2003  Summary of Human Rights Complaint: Wollmering tells student in phone calls that former SJU student “is like a dog in heat” and he was “servicing” women. “Sex is good.” Wollmering tells the student he really likes peeing in the shower, it’s like a mini orgasm.” (OSB Wollmering_00243-00245)

March 21, 2003  CSB/SJU Investigations findings. Finding of likely hostile environment and sexual harassment. Wollmering may have violated APA rules of dual relationships of being teacher and counselor of same student. Wollmering will agree to resign as head of Psychology department, resign as a CSB/SJU faculty member, not provide any counseling services to any student effective immediately. Wollmering shares entire complaint and documents with Abbot John Klassen. (OSB Wollmering_00253-00263)

7/27 –8/1/03  Assessment at the Saint Luke Institute. (OSB Wollmering_00264-00276)

August 28, 2003  Fr Stephen Rossetti, director SLI, Rossetti and Abbot John Klassen agreed that Wollmering begin a residential care program. (OSB Wollmering_00277)

October 21, 2003  Wollmering meets with investigator from MN Attorney Generals Office regarding MN Board of Psychology investigation. (OSB Wollmering 00284)

October 28, 2003  Wollmering enters Southdown Institute for 4-6 month residential treatment followed by 18 month aftercare. (OSB Wollmering_00280-00282)

January 19, 2004  Shauna Corbin, Ph.D., C.Psych Southdown treatment summary to Abbot Klassen: Wollmering has a sexual disorder with compulsive and exploitive behaviors and unintegrated features, pathological gambling and an occupational problem, all in the context of a narcissitic personality disorder with histrionic and obsessive-compulsive features. “He has gravitated to younger people throughout his career.” Seems to lack feelings and empathy. Stopped his sexual behavior out of concern for health rather than concern that it was wrong. He reports repeated molestation during his early formation that would be expected to be troubling to him, but seems to have created a deep cynicism instead, and
provided a way of excusing his own behavior. (OSB Wollmering_00291-294)

February 13, 2004  Wollmer retires from CSB/SJU Department of Psychology. (OSB Wollmering_00302)

September 30, 2004  Dr. Corbin provides St. John’s with a follow up care and safety plan for Wollmering that recommends no contact with students, young adults, counseling or psychotherapy after Klassen receives a letter from a former student who reported inappropriate behavior by Wollmering “completely consistent” with what was reported in 2003. (00306-00310)

November 15, 2004  Wollmering surrenders his Psychology license. (OSB Wollmering_00311)

January 13, 2005  Dr Corbin to Abbot Klassen. “…I believe it is fair to say that he (Wollmering) is still at least at moderate risk for becoming inappropriately over involved in other relationships.” (OSB Wollmering_00316-00318)

March 4, 2005  Meets with Project Pathfinders. (OSB Wollmering_00323)

July 29, 2006  Michael Bik, Bruce Wollmering and Rober Blumeyer named by Abbot Klassen with credible allegations. “The allegations against Wollmering were made in 2004 and include sexual misconduct early in the 1980’s reported by a former St. John’s (University) student, according to William Skudlarek OSB.” (OSB Wollmering_00337-00339)

August, 2006  Dr. Gary Schoener tells Abbot Klassen that a former SJU student reported unwanted contact (explicit emails, etc.) from Wollmering that continued up to 2006. The student, who “took his faith seriously,” was also upset that Wollmering told him that the Eucharist is “bullshit.” (00549-00550)

Klassen’s handwritten notes from meeting with Schoener indicate that Wollmering brought the student to dinner and read his “supervision plan” to him from a document. (00546-00547)

September 11, 2006  Civil Suit filed against St. John’s, Father Bruce Wollmering, Brother John Kelly and Father Finian McDonald. (OSB Wollmering_00526-545)

February 4, 2009  Wollmering dies.

February 8, 2009  Stearns County Sheriff’s detectives reviewed contents of Wollmerings room, a garden shed and an elevator pump room. (OSB Wollmering_00370)

February 8, 2009  Autopsy report indicates Wollmering died of a fractured skull, broken hip, punctured liver. No heart attack or aneurism. Coroner may want to come back to take a look at the scene of the accident, one bruise that he could not initially account for. (OSB Wollmering_00372, 383-385, 394-405)

March 31, 2009  Abbot Klassen to Captain Pam Jensen, Stearns County Sheriff, regarding the return of Wollmering’s Desktop Computer (OSB Wollmering_00408)

December 8, 2009  Former student files civil lawsuit. (OSB Wollmering_00409-434)