

Richard Eckroth, OSB Timeline

Born, William Anthony Eckroth, 6/21/26 – Mandan, North Dakota

- 1940-1944 Attends St. John's Preparatory School
- 1946-1949 Studied in Rome, at Maredsous Abbey, Belgium, and Metten Abbey, Germany
- June 7, 1952 – Ordained – “Richard” Eckroth, OSB
- September 1952 – College Faculty, St. John's, Collegeville, MN
- 1965-1966 – Prefect, St. Thomas Hall, St. John's
- 1966-1967 – Prefect, St. Anselm's Hall, St. John's
- 1967 – Assistant Chaplain, St. Benedict's Convent, St. Joseph, MN
- 1960s – 1970s Eckroth sexually abuses multiple children at a cabin on Swenson Lake near Bemidji that is owned by St. John's.
- June 19, 1973 – Assistant Pastor, St. Augustine's, St. Cloud, MN
- 1974 – Assistant Pastor, Seven Dolors Church, Albany, MN
- January 22, 1977 – Assistant Pastor, Holy Family Church, New Providence, Bahamas – Lives at St. Augustine's Monastery
- October 13, 1979 – Pastor, St. Robert Church, St. Gertrude Church, Sacred Heart Church, South Andros, Bahamas; St. Benedict; St. Boniface Church, Holy Angels Church, Mangrove Cay Area; Bahamas
- September 1980 Eckroth writes that an elderly parishioner – a woman of 75, got lost during the night. Eckroth says he was “perhaps the last one to see her alive” because he drove her home after church, dropped her off at the bottom of the hill where she lived. He writes, “she must have become confused, for she never went home, but began wandering about the island.” (OSB ECKROTH_00151-00152)
- July 12, 1982 Father of survivors meets with Abbot Theisen to report that Eckroth sexually abused his kids at St. John's cabin on Swenson Lake in the early 70s. (OSB ECKROTH_00430)
- September 1987 – Founding Pastor, Holy Name Church, Bimini, Bahamas
- September 24, 1991 – Pastor, St. John Chrysostom, Andros, Bahamas
- August, 1993 Parents of a man report to St. John's that their son was sexually abused by Eckroth when he was a boy. (OSB ECKROTH_00235)

- September, 1993 Abbot Kelly calls Bishop Lawrence Burke in the Bahamas to let him know he's removing Eckroth. Asks Burke to "keep this under his hat..." (OSB ECKROTH_00235) Abbot Kelly flies to the Bahamas to meet with Eckroth and accompany him to treatment. (OSB ECKROTH_00235)
- October 3-8, 1993 Eckroth is evaluated at St. Luke's Institute in Maryland. In the report it is noted that **St. John's received another report of abuse by Eckroth 6-7 years earlier and that the Abbot spoke with him at that time.** Eckroth admits taking young boys into a sauna naked and giving and getting massages. He's diagnosed by Stephen Montana, PhD w/ Sexual Disorder NOS, unintegrated sexuality; Personality Disorder NOS with compulsive, dependent, and schizoid traits. Dr. Montana opines that the specificity, and similarity of the various reports against Eckroth alone make them credible. Montana notes that although he believes the sexual contact happened between Eckroth and the others, he cannot give a certain diagnosis without an admission. Recommends Eckroth go to St. Luke's for inpatient evaluation. (OSB ECKROTH_00226-00234)
- October 8, 1993 Handwritten notes of phone call with Dr. Montana say that Eckroth had to be guaranteed no contact with children while in the Bahamas. (OSB ECKROTH_00243)
- October 10, 1993 Survivor and his parents meet with Abbot Kelly at St. John's to report Survivor was raped by Eckroth at the Swenson cabin when he was a boy. Eckroth threatened to kill the boy if he told. (OSB ECKROTH_00240-00242)
- February 9, 1994 Abbot Kelly tells a nun in the Bahamas that Eckroth is "recovering nicely from his hip surgery" but will not likely be returning to the Bahamas. (OSB ECKROTH_00252)
- February 16, 1994 Eckroth is admitted to St. Luke Institute, Suitland, MD for inpatient treatment under Frank Valcour, MD and Richard Bakker, MA, CCDC, CPC (OSB ECKROTH_00263) Eckroth is discharged before completing his program because he will not admit sexual contact with boys, and cannot see anything wrong with taking naked saunas with boys or naked massages with kids. (OSB ECKROTH_00266)
- December 22, 1994 An employee of St. John's tells Abbot Kelly he met with Jerome Theisen in the early 80s to report sexual abuse of his and others' children by Eckroth. Abbot Kelly writes a memo to "File" indicating he doesn't believe believe the employee ever met with Abbot Jerome in the early 80s to discuss abuse by Eckroth. (OSB ECKROTH_00294)
- May 1997 Eckroth gets permission from the Abbot to return to the Bahamas permanently. "Celebrates" by going to the Swenson cabin. (OSB ECKROTH_00360) When he returns to the Bahamas the Benedictine

newspaper writes that he returned to St. John's in 1993 to help run the cemetery and do chaplaincy work. (OSB ECKROTH_00361)

September 10, 1998 The employee who reported concerns about Eckroth abusing kids is warned by Michael Naughton, OSB not to bring up the "delicate subject" at work anymore or risk being fired. (OSB ECKROTH_00369)

May, 2002 Abbot Klassen confirms that on Jerome Theisen's 1982 desk calendar there is an appointment from 9-10:00 AM, July 12, 1982 – "[Employee who said he met with Kelly] / Richard" (OSB ECKROTH_00430) St. John's receives two more reports of abuse by Eckroth years earlier. One of the reporters says they were abused by Eckroth before he was ordained. Another reporter says Eckroth made a girl sit on his lap in the sauna while Eckroth was naked and that Eckroth made all the kids be naked in the sauna when they went to the cabin. (OSB ECKROTH_00441, 00468)

May 15, 2002 Abbot Klassen's notes from a conversation with Eckroth about the allegations against say: "I cannot help but wonder if [Eckroth] has dissociated completely from behavior that was inappropriate." (OSB ECKROTH_00473-00474)

June 25, 2002 Abbot Klassen refuses to allow Eckroth to speak to a reporter at the Pioneer Press. Says he can't allow Richard to speak to a reporter – even one he trusts. (OSB ECKROTH_00506)

April 22, 2003 Notes of a phone call from St. Cloud man to a priest in the Bahamas. The man says he heard that St. John's sends pedophiles down to the Bahamas to get rid of them. The priest calls St. John's to ask what to do about the call. The priest is told to call the man back to ask what monks he heard about "as a stalling technique." St. John's transfers its Bahamas building into its own corporation "quickly" to avoid having a lien placed on it if they are sued. (OSB ECKROTH_00554)

May 24, 2015 Died