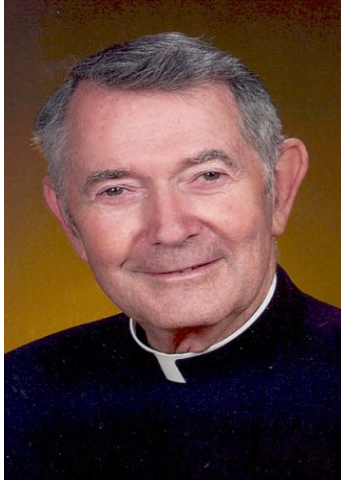


SYLVESTER BROWN - TIMELINE



9/7/30 Date of Birth

6/2/55 – Ordained

8/16/56 – Assistant Principal and Instructor, St. Mary’s Catholic High School, Owatonna, MN with residence at Sacred Heart Rectory (SB000346)

8/11/58 –Executive Secretary, St. Mary’s School Board, including the grade school and Marian High School (SB000349)

8/14/58 – Chaplain, Catholic Daughters Court 1180, Owatonna, MN (SB000351)

8/25/58 – Extraordinary Confessor, School Sisters of Notre Dame at Christ the King Parish in Medford for three years beginning with “Ember Week” of the following month. (SB000352)

8/1/61 Brown letter to Bishop Edward Fitzgerald thanking Fitzgerald for “the appointment to care of the state school children.” (SB000355)

8/22/61 – State School, Owatonna, MN (Diocese of Winona website)

6/17/63 – Faculty, Seminary and St. Mary’s College in Winona (SB000360)

8/21/63 – Chaplain, De Sales Hall for the faculty of the Christian Brothers and Assistant Chaplain to Father Literski for the college students; Ordinary Confessor, Scholasticate (SB000364)

6/22/65 Letter from Bishop of Winona to Brown asking if he will accept the obligation as ordinary confessor pro tem to the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Blue Earth. (SB000370)

7/19/65 Letter from Bishop of Winona to Brown asking if he would help temporarily at St. Mary’s Church in Worthington until 9/12 while Msgr. Hale is in Europe. (SB000372)

- 5/3/66 – Spiritual Director of the Seminary, he will continue as Director of Vocations and will teach a partial schedule of classes at St. Mary’s College. (SB000373-374) (Diocese of Winona website indicates appointed 6/8/66)
- 5/7/66 Letter from Bishop of Winona to Brown granting him permission to enroll at Loyola University for the summer session. (000375)
- 5/10/66 Letter from Brother J. Gregory, F.S.C. President, to Brown cc: Bishop Fitzgerald: “Just a note to reinforce the sentiments I expressed to you last week. I am really sorry that you will not have the intimate contact with the students as in the past.” (SB000377)
- 6/15/66 Letter from Archbishop of Chicago to Brown granting him faculties in the Archdiocese while residing at Loyola Hall. (SB000379)
- 8/14/69 – Spiritual Director to the students, St. Mary’s College, Winona. He will continue to serve as Director of Vocations of the Diocese. (SB000389)
- 7/1/71 – Pastor, St. Martin, Woodstock and St. Mary’s, Lake Wilson (SB000391)
- 7/11/74 – Pastor, SS Peter and Paul, Blue Earth, Parish of Our Lady of Mercy, Guckeen (SB000400)
- 7/12/75 – Chaplain, Twin Valley Council of the BSA, Mankato (SB000031)
- 7/3/78 – Executive Board of the Coalition of Churches for migrant Concerns (CCMC) (SB000409)
- 7/7/81 – Pastor, Pax Christi Parish, Rochester, MN (SB000412)
- Undated Letter to Bishop Watters: a parishioner came to speak with Watters concerning the actions of Father Brown during a counseling session. Letter indicates those involved were very upset by the whole incident. (SB000013)
- Undated Handwritten letter to P.J. Thompson inquiring as to Brown’s restrictions for his upcoming trip to Italy. (SB000017)
- 7/18/85 Letter from Bishop of Winona discussing their experience with Brown and his unprofessional conduct during a counseling session. What Brown thought at the time to be an honest effort to stress the sacredness of human sexuality was rather what was correctly identified as a violation. Questions regarding how many other people may have been abused by Brown. (SB000035-36)
- 7/18/85 Letter from Bishop of Winona discussing the report of Father Brown and their willingness to discuss with the Bishop. “Father Brown and I are equally concerned that no one else have a similar experience.” (SB000037)
- 7/19/85 Letter from Bishop of Winona to Brown enclosing a copy of three letters that speak for themselves. The Bishop must keep a log, the doctor must sign a statement to have evidence that “someone did something” and given “the current thrust of the news media” there is no alternative but to take the matter with the utmost seriousness and comply with what experienced lawyers recommend. (SB000038-39)

- Undated Letter to Bishop Vlazny thanking him for taking the time “with a person hurting as myself.” Author of letter is “grateful Father Brown came and admitted wrongdoing...However I have a hard time believing priests are always honest to you about sexuality issues.” (SB000005)
- 6/30/89 – Pastor, Immaculate Conception Church, St. Clair, MN (SB000417)
- 11/1/89 – Pastor, St. Ann’s Parish, Janesville, MN (SB000419)
- 11/3/89 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Dr. Duane Ollendick in Rochester, MN. Time and again issues have been raised from the past involving Brown’s unusual approach to dealing with young men who may be experiencing some sexual difficulties. (SB000080-81)
- 2/23/90 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Brown discussing appointments and treatment with Dr. Ollendick. (SB000087)
- 3/9/90 Letter from Dr. Duane Ollendick to Bishop Vlazny. Brown has not contacted him for a follow-up meeting and recommends others to give a second opinion. (SB000088-89)
- 3/19/90 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Brown telling Brown it’s not a good idea for him to take a seminarian for the summer to supervise because he has concerns for Brown’s personal well-being and the assignment would not be appropriate. (SB000090)
- 3/19/90 Letter from Dr. Joseph E. Switras to Bishop Vlazny discussing the psychological evaluation of Fr. Brown. (SB000092)
- 3/25/90 Memo from Bishop Vlazny to Brown indicating Vlazny hadn’t heard from Brown over the summer and didn’t know that Brown was going to see Switras. (SB000093)
- 10/24/90 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Dr. Joseph Switras; encloses the report and asks Switras to sign the report. Switras and Ollendick came to very different conclusions. (SB000098)
- 10/29/90 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Dr. Ollendick discussing Brown and Ollendick’s recommendation for a more intensive psychosexual evaluation that Fr. Brown disagreed with. (SB000099)
- 11/7/90 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Brown in St. Clair, MN, thanking him for his visit with Dr. Switras and requesting a meeting with Brown to review the evaluation. Particularly he would like to discuss Switras’ recommendation that there be some “need for some additional training in the area of handling sexual-related problems and a review of counseling procedures and ethics in regard to the area of sexuality and counseling.” (SB000101)
- 3/25/92 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Brown at Villa St. John Vianney in Downingtown, PA. (SB000110)

- 5/15/92 Letter from Fr. Dr. Richard Thomson to Bishop Vlazny informing Vlazny he received a call from Dr. Thomas Tyrell requesting the Diocese send a letter to Brown reiterating their concern regarding returning to the Diocese. (SB000113)
- Addendum: Received another call 5/15 from Dr. Tyrell: in the letter please reference any potential legal difficulties regarding Father Brown's behavior. I reiterated we are only aware of one incident involving [unknown]. (SB000115)
- 8/1/92 Handwritten letter to Brown reflecting on an incident that the author "must conclude was sexual abuse" on Brown's part. Brown asked him about erections, circumcision and to take his clothes off to which he refused. Page 2 references another person who shared the same experiences but actually removed his clothing for Brown. (SB000129-130)
- 8/3/92 Memo from Bishop Vlazny to Dr. Thomas Tyrrell enclosing the copy of the letter from a former victim hoping someone at the Villa will review with Fr. Brown while he's in treatment. (SB000131)
- 9/1/92 Memo to file from Bishop John Vlazny re: Father Sylvester Brown and Vlazny's visit to St. John Vianney in Downingtown, PA on 8/20/92. During his stay, Fr. Brown has dealt with his own victimization as a child; many behavioral ramifications resulted; Fr. Brown has not yet dealt with his incidents of his abusing others. (SB000137)
- 11/5/92 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Dr. Thomas Tyrell in PA; thanks him for 10/29 letter in which clinical recommendations were made to offer Fr. Brown upon his discharge on 11/18/92. "It will be important for you to be very clear with Father Brown that the diocese, upon your recommendation, does prohibit his involvement in the area of counseling adolescents or young adults as well as any work which involves sexual counseling such as marriage preparation." (SB000145)
- 11/18/92 – St. Ann, Janesville, MN and Saint Clair, MN (Diocese of Winona website)
- 12/23/92 Memo to Bishop Vlazny from Fr. Gerald Mahon re: Reference of Sexual Misconduct. A father of a boy told his father about an incident when the boy was celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation face-to-face with Brown. Brown asked the boy if he played with himself and if he did, how did it feel? Brown placed his hand on the boy's knee and asked him to talk about it. (SB000146)
- Memo to Bishop Vlazny from Fr. Mahon indicates a discussion with someone regarding Brown touching his son in the confessional when he was ten years old. Brown possibly touched his other son and talked about sexuality and struggles with sexuality. (SB000147)
- 12/24/92 Letter from Fr. Thomas Hargesheimer to Fr. Gerald Mahon describing his conversations about two incidents reported to Mahon on Wed. 12/23. The father of a boy who had been inappropriately questioned by Brown was considering talking to the Bishop and about another boy who were also touched by the priest. (SB000149)

- 2/1/93 Typed letter from a Brown survivor to Bishop Vlazny thanking Vlazny for talking with him and praying with him and reiterating his experiences and feelings toward Fr. Brown. (SB000150-151)
- 2/25/93 Letter from Bishop Vlazny suggesting a possibility of a meeting with Fr. Brown so he could speak with Brown about the hurts in his life that resulted from Brown's actions. (SB000153)
- 3/2/93 Sexual Misconduct Policy of the Diocese of Winona signed by Brown acknowledging he received a copy of the policy, read and understands it. (SB000421)
- 8/1/93 Handwritten note on Diocesan letterhead to Bishop Vlazny discussing contact by someone whose uncle was sexually abused by Brown. (SB000159)
- 1/12/94 Letter from Sandra O'Hara, Program Director The Anodos Center to Bishop Vlazny informing him Fr. Brown is scheduled to return to the Anodos Center for psychological reassessment beginning 1/31/94. (SB000170)
- 4/11/94 Letter from Sandra O'Hara to Bishop Vlazny re: clinical interviews and testing results of Fr. Sylvester Brown's re-assessment evaluation from 1/31/94-2/3/94 at the Anodos Center. (SB000183)
- 11/9/94 Letter from Sister Joanne Loecher, Director of Religious Education to Bp. Vlazny indicating that Brown was emotionally and verbally abusive. (SB000185)
- 2/6/95 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Brown in Janesville, MN. Brown is terminating psychotherapy sessions with Dr. Switra; one year prior Villa St. John recommended Brown have monthly sessions. Vlazny recommends a return to Villa St. John for another evaluation. (SB000189)
- 2/20/95 Letter from The Anodos Center, Dowingtown, PA to Bishop Vlazny re: Brown's return for Psychological Reassessment starting 3/27/95. (SB000190)
- 4/6/95 Letter from Ronald J. Karney, Ph.D., Clinical Director, to Bishop Vlazny enclosing diagnostic impressions and recommendations, which resulted from the assessment 3/27/95-3/30/95. (SB000203)
- 5/16/95 Letter from Bp. Vlazny to Brown appointing him Parochial Administrator of St. Ann's Church in Janesville, MN, effective June 28, 1995. (SB000206)
- 6/28/95 – Parochial Administrator, Saint Ann, Janesville, MN
- 5/16/96 Letter from Bishop Vlazny to Brown appointing him Pastor of St. Ann's Church in Janesville, effective July 1, 1996. (SB000425)
- 7/1/96 – Pastor, Saint Ann's Church, Janesville, MN

- 5/12/97 Letter from Rev. Dr. Richard Thomson in Stewartville, MN to Bishop Vlazny re: Brown. "The treatment and continuing therapy have put a halt to any acting out sexually." Page 2: "I don't believe there is any real concern for the Church regarding Fr. Brown's acting out. I do not see him as a predator." Recommends annual check-in and continuation of the 12-Step Recovery Program and meeting with Sister. (SB000207-208)
- 7/1/00 – Appointed to Saint Ann, Janesville, MN (Diocese of Winona website)
- 6/3/02 Handwritten, redacted letter to Bishop Harrington stating the writer's boyfriend was betrayed by Fr. Brown with inappropriate behavior. Talked to the Bishop before Harrington, concerned whether the issue is being taken care of. (SB000209)
- 6/26/02 Letter from Bishop Harrington to Brown suggesting Brown terminate his present assignment on July 31, 2002 and he step out of all public ministry for the next few months. (SB000210)
- 7/27/02 Confidential Report from Bishop Harrington to Fr. Michael Hoepfner and Fr. Edward McGrath discussing an experience with Brown. Brown was giving spiritual direction and indicated he had a special blessing for genitals and he would like to give the blessing. It was reported to Fr. Bob Brom who said to stay away from Brown as they'd had this difficulty with him before. (SB000211)
- 3/17/03 Confidential Memo from Harrington to Hoepfner, P.J. Thompson, Fr. Michael Cronin and Fr. McGrath re: Brown. Attended St. Patrick's Day celebration at St. Ann's in Janesville, Brown is in active ministry on many fronts. (SB000212)
- 5/23/03 Transcript of interview by Fr. Hoepfner (SB00213-219) with man who had spiritual direction with Fr. Brown in what was called a T-group. Brown asked him and others to share personal things, held sessions on sexuality, gave him a book, met with him and asked about circumcision. Brown told him to take of his clothes, encouraged him to get an erection, prayed a blessing over his genitals.
- For a while Brown had a young man living with him while running around doing ministry in a number of places. Felt Brown was a very dangerous man and asked Bishop why restrictions weren't placed on him; found out Brown said mass to confirmation students Nov. 2002.
- Hoepfner explains the promoter of justice to be like the district attorney and should be involved; he reviews the fact that actions caused to individual do not necessarily have to be touch in order to be considered grave – or mortal sin.
- Brown approached another with the same request; he was known as the "ball blesser" since college; concerned Brown has an interest in young men and boys. Report was made July 2002 and took nine months to do interview.
- 4/7/03 Memo from Bishop Harrington to Fr. Hoepfner: met with Brown on 4/4/03 at St. John's in Mankato. No public ministry, recommended a canon and civil lawyer; investigation underway. (SB000222)

- 4/26/03 Incident report indicates that in July 1985 Bishop Watters received report of Brown violating a man during counseling session. Watters recommended Brown receive counseling. Nov. 3, 1989 Brown is referred to treatment with Dr. Duane Ollendick because of issues involving his unusual approach with young men who have sexuality difficulties. The second area of concern regarded two incidents in the past when Brown said he tried to help troubled young men (years redacted). 10/11/90 report from Dr. Joseph Switras, Brown needs additional training in handling sexual-related problems and counseling; 2/26/92 evaluation at Trinity House, Chicago (no report), Brown as difficulty with boundaries; 3/9/92 Villa St. John Vianney in PA, letter written how in the fall of 1968 Brown discussed sexuality with him in counseling session, invited him to show his genitals. (SB000229)
- 5/5/03 Memo from Fr. Hoepfner to Diocesan Review Board Members. Includes draft of statement/recommendation to Bp. Harrington indicating abuse allegation is credible, before Brown returns to ministry he should be re-evaluated and restricted from one-on-one ministry. (SB000230)
- Undated Letter from Michelle A. Craveiro, MA, LMFT to Ms. PJ Thompson re: Sylvester Brown. Brown is attending monthly, two-hour therapy sessions at Kenwood Therapy Center, is on restrictions and is concerned whether the dioceses in which Brown substitutes know of his sexual misconduct history. (SB000016)
- 10/16/03 Letter from Bishop Harrington to Brown outlining his restrictions. Brown is to do supply ministry on weekends or individual parishes; therapy e/o week at Kenwood Therapy Center; marriages and funerals okay to perform; no Sacramental ministry outside parish; cannot hear confessions; no marriage or pre-marriage counseling. (SB000255-256)
- 11/21/05 Letter from Bp. Harrington to Fr. Brown reinstating the three restrictions including the ability to minister outside of a parish setting, hearing of the Sacrament of Reconciliation individually and communally and pre-marriage or marriage preparation. Brown is not to put himself in one-on-one situations where his is alone with boys and young men. (SB000277)
- 12/3/07 Letter from Bishop Harrington to Brown appointing him Parochial Administrator of St. Ann's Parish in Janesville, effective December 31, 2007. (SB000284)
- 12/31/07 – Parochial Administrator, St. Ann, Janesville; Saint Joseph in Waldorf, MN (Diocese of Winona website)
- 6/11/08 Email from Walter Bera to PJ Thomson indicating Brown was evaluated regarding the complaint and every concern brought up was investigated: overwork, slipping back into inappropriate sexual language, can't say no, etc. E-mail indicates Brown is an older priest and is not a danger in any way for parishioners or public. (SB000286)

6/16/08 Letter from Bishop Harrington regarding an issue that surfaced from an interaction with a student during the Sacrament of Reconciliation at a parish in another diocese in late December. Brown was hearing confessions, the students were asking questions during confessions about interactions with girls, relationships of intimacy and the topic of sexuality in general. (SB000287-288)

1/6/10 - Deceased