

## JAMES LENNON TIMELINE



- NO DATE Letter from Lennon to Don Schmitz, Chancellor re his financial situation. **“I am making it by being a male companion. Oh well, you do what you have to do.”** (JL 000024)
- 5/11/65 Unsigned letter from the Chancellor to Lennon regarding his ordination to priesthood. He is to abstain from alcohol for the next 5 years. (JL000095-96)
- 5/27/65 – Ordained
- 5/27/65 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon assigning him to Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona. (JL000098)
- 6/14/65 – Assistant Pastor, Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Winona
- 7/29/66 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon appointing him to ordinary confessor for the School Sister of Notre Dame at St. John’s Convent. (JL000104)
- 8/15/66 - Ordinary Confessor for the School Sisters of Notre Dame at St. John’s Convent
- 5/10/68 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon assigning him as associate pastor to the Church of the Resurrection in Rochester. (JL000105)
- 6/17/68- Associate Pastor, Church of Resurrection, Rochester
- 8/10/68 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon assigning him part-time teacher at Lourdes High School. (JL000107)
- 8/14/68 - Part-time instructor of religion, Lourdes High School
- 9/9/69 Letter from John J. Hunt, Jr., Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus Council No. 1013 to the Bishop requesting Lennon serve as their Chaplain. (JL000109)
- 9/11/69 - Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, Rochester
- 6/24/71 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon appointing him Chaplain at St. Mary’s College. (JL000111)

6/28/71 Letter from Lennon to Bishop Watters requesting to stay in current assignment and not move to St. Mary's College. (JL000112-114)

7/9/71 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon revoking appointment at St. Mary's College as he is unable to replace Lennon at the Church of Resurrection and Lennon's teaching responsibilities. (JL000118)

6/13/72 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon appointing him to fulltime Instructor of Religion at Cotter High School, Winona. (JL000120)

6/29/72 - Instructor of Religion at Cotter High School, Winona; Part-time Associate Pastor, St. Stanislaus, Kostka

5/25/76 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon appointing him to Pastor, St. Mary's Parish, Minneiska; Continue fulltime teaching at Cotter. (JL000122-23)

6/11/76 - Pastor, Church of St. Mary, Minneiska; Continue fulltime teaching at Cotter

11/23/76 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon appointing him to Pastor of St. Aloysius, Elba and to continue as Pastor at St. Mary's Church, Minneiska and also fulltime teaching at Cotter. (JL000127)

12/01/76- Pastor, Church of St. Aloysius, Elba, MN; Pastor, St. Mary's, Minneiska; Teacher, Cotter

5/17/77 Letter to Lennon assigning him as Pastor of St. Anthony's parish, Altura, and continue on as Pastor at St. Aloysius in Elba and teaching Religion at Cotter. (JL000128)

5/26/77 Lennon resigns from St. Mary's Minneiska. (JL000129)

6/9/77 – Pastor, Church of St. Anthony, Altura; Pastor, St. Aloysius; Teacher of Religion, Cotter

11/12/77 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon assigning him as Administrator to Sacred Heart Parish, Heron Lake. (JL000130-131)

11/25/77 Lennon resigns from St. Anthony, Altura and St. Aloysius, Elba. (JL000132)

12/1/77 – Administrator, Sacred Heart, Heron Lake

12/31/77 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon assigning him to help as a staff member at the Religious Education Center in Slayton. (JL000134)

12/31/77- Help-out work at the Religious Education Center in Slayton

5/15/78 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon assigning him as Pastor to St. James Parish, St. James. (JL000136)

6/15/78 – Pastor, St. James, St. James, MN

- 6/1/83 Letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon appointing him to Pastor of the Church of St. Joachim in Plainview. (JL000141)
- 6/23/83 – Pastor, St. Joachim, Plainview, MN (JL000142)
- 7/4/83 Lennon resigns from St. James Parish, St. James. (JL000143)
- 6/1/84 Unsigned letter from Bishop of Winona to Lennon regarding their telephone conference that morning and enclosing the usual resignation forms of a pastor. (JL000292)
- NO DATE Letter from Lennon to Bishop Watters enclosing Lennon's resignation papers from St. Joachim in Plainview. **He will be taking a few weeks off and is considering treatment but doesn't think he needs it. He would eventually like to return to active ministry. (JL000015-16)**
- 7/20/85 Letter from Lennon to Don resigning as an ordained priest and seeking laicization. (JL000150)
- 6/8/95 Lennon got married. (JL000174)
- 6/25/99 Memo from Fr. Hoepfner to Fr. McGrath- Lennon was married and then divorced and he now wants to reintegrate into the priesthood. (JL000166)
- 7/27/99 Notes from an interview with Lennon discussing his employment since leaving the priesthood and his marriage. They also discussed an allegation from 1995 where a former student claimed Lennon violated her more than once. **Lennon admitted that he initiated sexual contact with the student. What happened was his fault and not hers and he compensated her from his own wages.** He denied that there were others. (JL000263-265)
- 8/2/99 Decree of Nullity for Lennon's marriage and divorce (JL000177)
- 8/4/99 Letter of support to Bishop Harrington attesting to Lennon's high moral character. The author says Lennon helped coach his daughter's basketball team 3 or 4 years ago. (JL000271)
- 8/15/99 Letter from Lennon to the Holy Father requesting his faculties be reinstated. (JL000180)
- 9/8/99 Notes from an interview with Lennon. **Lennon admitted that he raped the former student he previously admitted to abusing. He accepts complete responsibility.** He had to pray over whether he thought there were other adult victims but was adamant that there were no other minor victims. If the Holy See were to lift the irregularities, he would be limited to ministry in prison and nursing homes. (JL000284)
- 9/28/99 Letter from Lennon to Father McGrath thanking him for helping him get back into ministry and apologizing: "As regards the situation which prevented a return

to parish ministry. I apologize to you that you needed to deal with it. I assure you, I have changed.” “Most of the allegations are true.” (JL000181)

9/28/99 Letter from Lennon to the Bishop of Winona apologizing for a “painful meeting.” “Most of the allegations are true.” (JL000182)

10/8/99 Unsigned letter from Bishop Harrington to Rome, Cardinal Hoyos re asking to lift Lennon’s irregularities. **Bishop is willing to put him in a Prison or nursing home setting to practice ministry “on the condition that the authorities are aware of his past occult action and supervise his ministry to help me ensure that he does not reoffend.”** (JL000288)

3/13/00 Redacted letter from Father McGrath re assistance with billing and limits on the Diocese of Winona’s assistance and amending the agreement the recipient signed with the Diocese’s attorney. (JL000291)

NO DATE Unsigned Votum of the Instructor (*Second Draft*) from McGrath submitting an opinion favorable to lifting Lennon’s irregularities on the condition that his faculties be limited and his ministry supervised, but scandal is a concern. His victim was a student at Lourdes High School. **“He has acknowledged that his behavior with the student would constitute as “rape.” That he did indeed use manipulation, and as his victim pointed out, he did use his hands to force her to fellatio.”** (JL000305-306)

6/20/00 Unsigned letter from Father McGrath to redacted Survivor re payment of therapy and review. “We may ask for a peer review of your treatment progress and plan by a panel of three experts who can assure the People of God, confidentially through the audit, that diocesan funds are providing good means to a good end. If there is indication of no good progress, we reserve the right to nominate another therapist for you or to end our subsidy if that nomination is refused.” (JL000307)

8/08/00 – Died

8/10/00 Memo to Bishop Harrington informing him of Lennon’s death. The diocese was paying for Lennon’s health insurance out of the Clergy Education budget. (JL000201)

NO DATE Lennon employment history after he left active ministry in 1984 (JL000206)