

Father Tom Gillespie, OSB Timeline

July 24, 1937 – Born, William Raymond Gillespie, Minneapolis, Minnesota

April 22, 1958 Cautionary review of Gillespie says he’s “soft” and his family of origin catered too much to his desires as a child. (OSB GILLESPIE_00014)

May 30, 1964 – Ordained

1964 – Assistant Pastor, St. Bernard’s, St. Paul, Minnesota

August 1966 – Assistant Vocations Director, St. John’s Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota

August 1968 – English Teacher, San Antonio Abad Monastery, Humacau, Puerto Rico

August 28, 1968 Gillespie goes on vacation in Puerto Rico. While in Puerto Rico he is told he is being transferred to a small parish in northern Minnesota. He had not heard of a transfer before that. The next morning “Fr. Eric” came to his room and asked if he would like to stay in Puerto Rico permanently. The Abbot granted Gillespie permission to stay in Puerto Rico via phone call from Puerto Rico. Gillespie returned to St. John’s to pack his things and then flew back to Puerto Rico in September for his permanent assignment. (OSB GILLESPIE_00048-00049)

May 29, 1975 – Assistant Pastor, St. Boniface, Cold Spring, Minnesota

October 1975 Gillespie spends a month in the psychiatric unit at St. Cloud hospital. No explanation why but writes two years later that he was “pretty sick at the time.” (OSB GILLESPIE_00067)

May 1, 1976 Gillespie refuses to stay at St. Boniface in Cold Spring if Father Brennan is assigned there so the Abbot tells Gillespie he will send him to St. Bernard’s in St. Paul. (OSB GILLESPIE_00060)

August 3, 1976 – Assistant Pastor, St. Bernard’s, St. Paul, Minnesota

July 1977 Gillespie asks the Abbot to remove him from St. Bernard’s (OSB GILLESPIE_00067)

1978 – Pastor, St. Mary’s, Stillwater, Minnesota

1978 Gillespie abuses a boy from St. Mary’s who will later sue in 1996

1986 – Pastor, St. Joseph’s, St. Joseph, Minnesota

1996 St. John’s sued by man who was abused by Gillespie in 1978

February 23, 1996 Abbot Kelly learns of allegations that Gillespie abused a 14-year-old boy 18 years earlier. He pulls Gillespie out of St. Joseph’s but does not tell parishioners why. (OSB GILLESPIE_00203-00204)

- February 24, 1996 Abbot Kelly informs parishioners that Gillespie is being recalled to St. John's to deal with "some health problems." Asks parishioners to pray for Gillespie. (OSB GILLESPIE_00130)
- April 1, 1996 Gillespie admitted to St. Luke Institute in Maryland for treatment. (OSB GILLESPIE_00131)
- April 24, 1996 Abbot Tim Kelly writes to Gillespie at St. Luke's that he let the community know Father Brennan was going to St. Luke's for a "gambling addiction" at his request. Says he hasn't made any public statement about Gillespie or his whereabouts yet and is waiting for Gillespie's decision on whether to do so. (OSB GILLESPIE_00133-00134)
- April 28, 1996 Gillespie says his future is too uncertain but he realizes it is "all [his] fault." Says, "I'm not going to blame my parents or anyone else." He also says he is looking forward to taking long walks off campus at St. Luke's on weekends once he's off "restriction." (OSB GILLESPIE_00136)
- June 11, 2002 Gillespie tells Abbot Klassen, "I am responsible for what happened and I deeply regret the grief and sorrow I have caused so many people, including you and the community." (OSB GILLESPIE_00158)
- November, 2003 Various priests from Gillespie's support group write to Abbot Klassen supporting Gillespie's request to take a trip to Rome for "renewal." Father Jim Reichert emails Abbot Klassen supporting Gillespie's request and says he and Gillespie were close friends when Gillespie's "sexual addiction" surfaced in 1996, but that he's doing well. (OSB GILLESPIE_00170) Geoffrey Fecht, OSB writes to Abbot Klassen saying that Gillespie was scheduled to take a retreat in Belgium in 1996 just before the allegations came out and that he should be able to go now. (OSB GILLESPIE_00173) Dan Ward, OSB writes that he has "worked with many people who have sexually abused minors," and he thinks Gillespie should be able to go to Rome. (OSB GILLESPIE_00175-00176)
- December 10, 2003 Gillespie tells Abbot Klassen he wants to talk with him about the Review Board because he has some "real misgivings" about some of the people on it. (OSB GILLESPIE_00179)
- December 17, 2003 Notes from Klassen meeting with Gillespie telling him he cannot take the Rome trip say that Gillespie was "pissed," and that he wants to know what the complication is. (OSB GILLESPIE_00180-00181)
- April 2006 Gillespie goes to Rome for renewal trip.
- February 25, 2013 St. John's student complains that Gillespie is sending him emails and coming to his choir concerts. Abbot sends him a letter to stop because

Gillespie “can see how sensitive this student is.” (OSB
GILLESPIE_00196-00197)