

Summary of Key Documents and Depositions Pertinent to Bishop Michael J. Hoepfner Investigation

Monsignor Roger Grundhaus

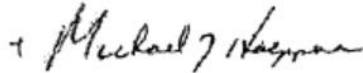
- 1971 or 1972: Msgr. Grundhaus sexually abuses Ron Vasek when Ron is 16 or 17 years old
- 1991 to 2008: Msgr. Grundhaus serves as Vicar General in the Diocese of Crookston
- 2011: Vasek discloses the abuse to Bishop Hoepfner
- 2012: Bishop Hoepfner represents to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis that Msgr. Grundhaus is fit for ministry despite Vasek's abuse and report

[Exhibit 15](#) to November 27, 2018 Deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner: October 12, 2012 Letter to Jennifer Haselberger, Chancellor for Canonical Affairs for Archdiocese

In regard to Msgr. Roger Grundhaus I am able to make the following statements:

- He is a person of good moral character and reputation.
- I know of nothing which would in any way limit or disqualify him from this ministry.
- I am unaware of anything in his background which would render him unsuitable to work with minor children.
- He has satisfied our diocese's safe environment training and associated background investigation.

Respectfully yours in Christ;



Most Reverend Michael J. Hoepfner

Bishop of Crookston

October 3, 2012

[Video Clip Grundhaus 1](#): Excerpt of November 27, 2018 Deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner, transcript pp. 99-100 (Bishop Hoepfner's testimony regarding his misrepresentations to the Archdiocese about Msgr. Grundhaus' fitness to minister)

[Video Clip Grundhaus 2](#): Excerpt of November 27, 2018 Deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner, transcript pp. 100-104 (Bishop Hoepfner's testimony regarding misrepresentations made to the Archdiocese to avoid public scandal)

- October 2015: The Diocese fails to disclose Msgr. Grundhaus' name or personnel file in violation of court order obtained in *Doe 19 v. Diocese of Crookston*

Summary of Key Documents and Depositions Pertinent to Bishop Michael J. Hoepfner Investigation

- October 2015: Bishop Hoepfner forces Ron Vasek into silence and coerces Vasek to sign a letter recanting his abuse by Msgr. Grundhaus

[Exhibit 6](#) to November 27, 2018 Deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner: Letter Bishop Hoepfner coerced Ron Vasek into signing



office of the Bishop - p.o. box 610 · crookston, minnesota 56716
tel: (218) 281-4533 fax: (218) 281-3328

I, Ron Vasek, regarding a trip I was on when I was 16 years old, and on which a priest of the Diocese of Crookston was also participating, clearly and freely state that I have no desire to nor do I make any accusation of sexual impropriety by the priest toward me.

Handwritten signature of Mr. Ron Vasek in cursive script.

Mr. Ron Vasek

Date: 10-21-15

- December 2017: Mahnommen County judge orders evidentiary hearing to determine if Bishop Hoepfner should be sanctioned for intentionally violating the *Doe 19* court order in failing to disclose Msgr. Grundhaus' name and file
- September 2019: Archbishop Bernard Hebda begins canonical investigation into Bishop Hoepfner's conduct, making Hoepfner the first U.S. Bishop investigated under Pope Francis' new Motu Proprio "Vos Estis Lux Mundi" ("You are the Light of the World")
- April 13, 2021: Pope Francis requires resignation of Bishop Hoepfner as a result of his improper handling of child sexual abuse allegations in the Diocese of Crookston.

Summary of Key Documents and Depositions Pertinent to Bishop Michael J. Hoepfner Investigation

Father Patrick Sullivan

- 1982: Ordained in the Diocese of Crookston
- 2009: Sexually abuses Doe 457 while in ministry on Red Lake Reservation
- 2009: Sent to treatment at St. John Vianney

[Exhibit 9](#) to October 8, 2018 Deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner: St. John Vianney Report of Psychological Assessment dated July 13, 2009

- **Father Sullivan should participate in programming designed to increase his understanding of the boundaries of appropriate behavior. He identifies this as an area of need, which coupled with testing results, strongly indicates boundary education should be addressed immediately. His view on this topic is naïve, as he would face serious consequences were he to touch a child or adult inappropriately. It appears that without boundary education, both Father Sullivan and those with whom he interacts may be at risk.**

[Video Clip Sullivan 1](#): Excerpt of October 8, 2018 Deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner, pp. 78-79 (response of Bishop Hoepfner to St. John Vianney Report)

[Exhibit 16](#) to October 8, 2018 Deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner: St. John Vianney Psychiatric Discharge Summary

RECOMMENDATIONS AND AFTERCARE PLAN:

1. **Psychotherapy: Father will arrange psychotherapy after arriving at new assignment.**
2. **Psychiatric: Recommended to evaluate medication as appropriate for dysthymia symptoms and ADD. Can be arranged in consultation with therapist.**
3. **Medical: Regular follow-up with Howard Hoody, M.D.**
4. **Special Instructions: Ministry assignment as determined by Bishop; spiritual direction monthly; identify and meet with support persons; follow practices to support physical, spiritual, emotional, social, and intellectual wellbeing.**

[Video Clip Sullivan 2](#): Excerpt of October 8, 2018 Deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner, transcript pp. 99-102 (Bishop Hoepfner's lack of follow-up to Fr. Sullivan's aftercare recommendations)

Summary of Key Documents and Depositions Pertinent to Bishop Michael J. Hoepfner Investigation

[Video Clip Sullivan 3](#): Excerpt of October 8, 2018 Deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner, transcript pp. 108-09 (Bishop Hoepfner's failure to provide the St. John Vianney documents to law enforcement or to alert the public to the risk Fr. Sullivan posed)

- 2016: Fr. Sullivan removed from ministry after Doe 457 lawsuit served
- December 2017: Bishop Hoepfner reinstates Fr. Sullivan in ministry after review board finds allegations not-credible (review board not provided with Fr. Sullivan's treatment records)
- February 2019: Fr. Sullivan placed on administrative leave after report made of a "boundary issue"

Summary of Key Documents and Depositions Pertinent to Bishop Michael J. Hoepfner Investigation

Father Joseph Richards

- 1989: Ordained in the Diocese of Crookston
- 1990s: Admits to Msgr. Foltz and Bishop Balke to having sexually abused a 5 year-old boy at age 15
- 1993: on Leave of Absence from Diocese of Crookston
- 1993: Receives treatment at St. Michael's Community (Servants of the Paraclete) in St. Louis, Missouri

[Exhibit 3](#) to November 27, 2018 Deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner: St. Michael's Community 1993 Psycho/Social History of Fr. Richards

the death of his father in February 1992. In addition, he feels that he has problems with sexual compulsivity and considers himself to be "sexually addicted."

Joseph said that he considers himself to be bisexual at this time, although he has never had sexual relations. He admits to feeling somewhat confused regarding his sexuality. He feels that his masturbation, need for pornography, and sexual fantasizing would become out of control whenever he would go out of town. When he began to have fantasies about abusing a child and felt an attraction toward children, he decided to voluntarily seek help.

and death of his father, and the death of a close uncle. His sexual preoccupation also appears to be interfering with his daily life and may be bordering on compulsive. His fantasies regarding children, while not uncommon for sexual abuse victims, are disturbing and should be treated as a cry for help. He would probably benefit from an intensive inpatient program.

- 1994-96: Participates in aftercare programs at St. Michael's Community
- 1997: Placed back in ministry in the Diocese of Crookston

[Video Clip Richards 1](#): Excerpt of November 27, 2018 Deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner, transcript pp. 113-14 (Bishop Hoepfner's testimony that he has never seen Fr. Richards' Psycho/Sexual History and it does not cause him to reconsider Fr. Richards' position in ministry)

- Present: Pastor of St. Joseph Church in Fertile, MN and Mission at St. Lawrence, Mentor, MN