

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING MARVIN KNIGHTON¹

4/8/71 Letter from Msgr. William Schait to Knighton accepting his application to St. Francis Seminary, but saying that there is concern about Knighton's "development" and his acceptance is probationary. (52843)

5/24/75 – Ordained

7/11/75 Appointed Team Member at St. Anne Parish in Milwaukee, WI effective August 5, 1975. (42554)

8/5/75 – Team Member, St. Anne's, Milwaukee, WI

5/28/76 Appointed Faculty Member of Pius XI High School in Milwaukee, WI effective June 15, 1976. (42560)

6/15/76 – Faculty Member, Pius XI High School – Milwaukee, WI

7/26/79 Letter from Archdiocese official accepting Knighton's decision to have his name taken off the advisory board for the Office of Integration, but stating that he cannot help to wonder about Knighton's decision to have his name taken off the advisory board. (42567)

8/25/81 Letter from Knighton to Weakland saying he had been to the seminary complex with two students and received the third degree about why he was there and if he belonged. (42574-42575)

9/2/81 Unsigned letter to Knighton advising him he received his letter and is trying to work with Fr. Venne about "the problem you raised." (42573)

Not dated Handwritten notes, "I don't know much about this but understand it is a joint venture between [another priest] and Knighton. They bought a city owned property for a "boys" home. Troubled boys, court-cases, etc. I don't know how they will do." (42577) Note is in connection with a typed invitation to a housewarming party, "Hil and Marv have bought a home!" Buying to provide temporary shelter for teens. (42578)

8/28/87 Letter to Knighton confirming his job at Whitnall School District as "leave of absence." Knighton requested that he be listed as "on loan" to the Whitnall School District. According to the rules and regulations, must use the category leave of absence to reflect that that Knighton is working at Whitnall High School (42601)

¹ This timeline was principally prepared by Jeff Anderson & Associates PA; Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C. provided limited corrections to certain entries and assisted with redactions of abuse survivor information that could potentially have identified individual abuse survivors.

8/8/88 Knighton appointed faculty at Pius XI High School effective August 1, 1988. (52537)

8/1/88 – Faculty, Pius XI High School, Milwaukee, WI

9/11/88 Letter from Knighton to Weakland saying he likes being at Pius. Knighton feels peace this year compared to last year at Whitnall High School. When Knighton was debating priesthood from the time he was a child up and until ordination he questioned celibacy and family life. He questioned celibacy's value as being the criteria for all men who seek this ministry. Told Weakland that he wants to be a father and is sponsoring two boys, ages 6 and 10 and is hoping to adopt them or be their legal guardian. (42610-42611)

9/16/88 Letter from Weakland to Knighton in response to his 9/11/88 letter. Weakland states he is irritated by the letter and believes Knighton has a pattern of doing whatever he wants without asking his superiors. Weakland has not given him permission to adopt the two children. (14274)

10/13/88 Letter from Sklba to Knighton expressing sadness at Knighton's words to the Archbishop. Believes it's a mistake in judgment and perception to continually refer to "the seminary experience." Many feel he has chartered his own course without consultation. (42248) Regarding the "seminary experience," the letter dated 9/20/98 from Knighton to Sklba refers to "past attitude of some and the labeling [Knighton] received . . . similar when [Knighton] was in the seminary. He wasn't there, he must have gotten these labels from somewhere. I shared these comments with those who know me, priest, and lay persons alike and they find the labels of 'doing as I please' and others unfair." (42246-42247)

7/10/89 Letter from Knighton to Weakland stating the boys he adopted had arrived. Knighton received a call from the Herald and asked the Herald not to write anything on it because he does not want the publicity. (14280)

7/13/89 Letter from Weakland to Knighton saying thanks for letter him to and letting him know the boys he was adopting have arrived. He also wants to know if he has enough money to take care of it all. (14279)

8/26/91 Chancellor letter to Knighton appointing him temporary administrator of St. Frederick, Cudahy, WI effective September 3, 1991. (14284)

9/3/91 – Temporary Administrator, St. Frederick's, Cudahy, WI

1/27/92 Letter from Knighton to Venne saying he will be unofficially serving at Blessed Sacrament Parish until June. (52559)

6/10/92 Letter from Weakland to Knighton appointing him Campus Minister of Mt. Mary College effective July 1, 1992. (14288)

7/1/92 – Campus Minister, Mt. Mary College Milwaukee, WI

11/12/93 Letter from Knighton to Venne discussing negative press coverage and saying that he can identify with someone who is falsely accused. Knighton is exploring the possibility of moving to Phoenix, AZ and requesting permission from Weakland to do so. (42266)

3/23/94 Letter from Knighton to Rev. Thomas O'Brien, Bishop of Diocese of Phoenix, regarding a transfer from ADOM to the Diocese of Phoenix. (14302)

5/23/94 Letter from Weakland to Bishop O'Brien in Phoenix, AZ regarding Knighton's request to be moved to Diocese of Phoenix. Weakland does not want to loan him to another Diocese because it would affect negatively the morale of the priests of the ADOM, but he would grant him excardination. (52574)

6/6/94 Letter from Venne to Bishop O'Brien enclosing copies of the information in Knighton's Personnel File. The Vicar for Clergy Office began in 1980 and information before that was not kept, except the Chancery files of appointment letters. (42294)

6/15/94 Letter from Bishop O'Brien to Weakland saying that after reviewing Knighton's file and considering the circumstances and needs in the Phoenix Diocese, he does not want to pursue Knighton's request for incardination. (14303)

8/23/94 Note to the Archbishop. Bishop O'Brien phoned and would like a letter explaining Knighton's status. O'Brien spoke to Barbian and was told that Knighton was on a personal leave of absence. Knighton is trying to help out in the Diocese of Phoenix, but the Bishop does not want him to do so. (14308)

8/24/94 Letter from Bishop O'Brien to Knighton stating he was surprised to know that Knighton relocated to Phoenix. He says he does not know what Knighton's intentions are, but he does not have faculties in the Diocese of Phoenix and therefore may not perform any public ministry. (14311)

12/23/94 Letter from Knighton to Weakland asking to extend his personal leave in Arizona for 5 more months. He is working the Scottsdale Public Schools at this time. He states he understands that he will not be able to fully function as a priest in Phoenix because the damage to his name is irreversible. (14317-14318)

3/6/95 Knighton appointed Pastor of a Central City Catholic parish temporarily named Parish East, Milwaukee, WI effective June 20, 1995. (14319)

6/19/95 Knighton appointed Associate Pastor of All Saints Parish in Milwaukee, WI effective December 1, 1995. (42311)

6/20/95 – Pastor, Parish East, St. Martin de Porres Parish, Milwaukee, WI

11/10/95 Letter from Knighton to Weakland wishing to no longer be pastor of St. Martin de Porres effective the end of November. (42316-42317)

12/1/95 – Associate Pastor, All Saints Parish, Milwaukee, WI

6/5/96 Letter from Knighton to Sklba requesting he moves back to Phoenix to serve in education. He hopes he is in good standing with the ADOM but realizes there may be difficulties due to past events in 1994-1995. (42334-42335)

6/28/96 Letter from Sklba to Knighton granting him permission to move to Arizona for one year, renewable upon review in spring of 1997 in order to be assured that Knighton is received the network of human and priestly support needed for long term happiness and spiritual growth. (14343)

7/24/96 Letter from Knighton to Sklba saying he cannot take the position as a counselor in Phoenix. Knighton has been unable to sell his house and he will not be able to incur additional housing costs without the sale of his house. The principal needs a counselor in place within a week. Knighton will remain at All Saints for now. (42332)

2/11/97 Letter from Knighton to Weakland asking for a leave of absence and permission to relocate to Phoenix. (42341-42342)

3/6/97 Letter from Weakland to Knighton giving him permission to take a personal leave of absence and to relocate to Phoenix. Will be difficult to change Bishop O'Brien's mind but will bring up the issue again with him in June. (14354)

09/97 - Desert Mountain High School, Scottsdale Arizona (13997-13998)

1/27/98 Letter from Weakland to Knighton saying he received Knighton's Christmas newsletter and read that Knighton is adopting another child. (42354)

7/14/98 Knighton appointed Associate Principal at Dominican High School in Whitefish Bay, WI effective August 1. (42357)

8/1/98 – Associate Principal, Dominican High School, Whitefish Bay, WI

6/6/00 Letter from Knighton to Fr. Hornacek saying Knighton accepted a position with St. Mary's High School in Phoenix, Arizona to begin in August. (42366)

8/21/00 Letter from Bishop O'Brien to Knighton, granting him faculties in the Diocese of Phoenix effective immediately. (42374)

8/1/00 – St. Mary's High School, Phoenix, AZ

8/31/01 Appointed Consultant in the Office for Child and Youth Ministry effective September 1, 2001. (42389)

9/1/01 – Consultant, Office for Child and Youth Ministry

2/18/02 Sexual abuse intake report reporting abuse from an individual who says Knighton abused him from 1986-1991 when he was about 12-13 years old and until he was 18-19 years old. Individual also says that at Pius High School there were other boys involved with Knighton. (123883)

2/28/02 Vicar Log Entry No. 187 - Knighton states that the individual's father confronted him years ago. Knighton denied any abuse and reported the incident to the vicar. (52371)

3/1/02 Letter from Knighton to Hornacek and Barbara Reinke denying the allegations, saying they surfaced back in the 1990s. He acknowledges that Venne and Matthew Flynn knew about the allegations but says they did not do anything because they didn't receive an official complaint. Handwritten note says that the statute of limitations has expired. (42394)

3/8/02 Vicar Log Entry No. 208 says Marv denies all allegations except what he claims was consensual hugging and kissing. (42439)

3/28/02 Sexual abuse intake report reporting abuse by Knighton from 1975-1976 when he was 15-16 years old. Notes also comment that Knighton has a young adopted son and there are concerns with regard to mandatory reporting laws. Knighton should contact Child Protection Center to sign a release allowing his son to be interviewed. There is nothing to suggest he has abused his children, or any child, since about 1990. (123883)

4/1/02 Precept signed by Weakland placing restrictions on Knighton. (42407)

4/11/02 Barbara Reinke's entry for file on Knighton. Knighton admitted that he "made a mistake" in the incident with (redacted) but he insisted this incident occurred in 1973, prior to his being ordained a deacon. (42003)

6/4/02 Letter from District Attorney Paul Tiffin notifying ADOM that charges will be filed against Knighton. (42411)

- 8/1/02 Letter from Kenneth Herian (Associate Pastor of Gesu Parish, Milwaukee, WI) to Barbara Reinke questioning whether Project Benjamin was actually causing more harm than good to the survivors. He says an article in the paper makes it sound like Project Benjamin is on the side of the Archdiocese and its lawyers and not listening to survivors. (51678)
- 8/25/03 Letter from Knighton to Dolan stating that he was acquitted. The letter discusses the history of the allegation and what steps he took, including speaking with Venne and Flynn at the time. (14420-14426). Letter states that, in 1993, individual and his father were spreading around to others a false allegation of Knighton having an inappropriate relationship with the individual. (14422)
- 8/28/03 Letter from Gerald P. Boyle to Dolan saying Project Benjamin “blew it” when investigating Knighton by believing the accuser. In 1994 Marv went to the Archdiocese and asked for an investigation because there were rumors about him and there should have been an investigation then. (42012-42013)
- 9/2/03 Entry in Knighton’s file by Barbara Reinke. She told unknown person that the matter with Knighton would not be dropped and it was up to the Diocesan Review Board to determine the next steps in the process. Individual had heard there are others abused by Knighton. (13658)
- 9/5/03 Precept from Dolan with restrictions placed on Knighton. (41993)
- 3/24/04 Letter from Dolan to Angelo Amato at the CDF requesting that Knighton be dismissed *ex officio* as a result of abuse of office and sex abuse allegations. Dolan says he would not be surprised if others come forward. The enclosed reporting form lists 4 known abuse survivors. (52750-52753)
- 6/15/04 Letter from Angelo Amato at the CDF to Dolan that he should begin judicial penal process against Fr. Knighton. (52757)
- 11/27/04 Settlement agreement for \$40,000. (57132-57134)
- 12/7/04 Settlement agreement for \$40,000 and \$10,000 per year for three years in consideration of the special educational and counseling decisions he wishes to make. (57094-57096)
- 7/27/07 Definitive Sentence for Knighton’s case at the CDF. (51207-51246)
- 8/13/07 Letter from Fr. Frederick to Knighton advising him of the result of his penal trial. The decision was that a crime was committed in two of three counts presented and Knighton will be permanently restricted from ministry. Frederick asks if Knighton wants to seek voluntary laicization. (41986)
- 1/31/09 Letter from Luis F. Ladaria at the CDF to Dolan saying the CDF received an appeal on Knighton’s sentence. (41990)

1/13/11

Definitive Sentence in the case of the Rev. Martin T. Knighton dismissing Knighton from the clerical state. (51253-51291)