

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING DONALD ANTHONY PETERS¹

5/27/50 – Ordained

7/5/50 Appointed Assistant Pastor at St. Michael, Milwaukee, effective July 7, 1950. (20258)

7/5/50 – Assistant Pastor, St. Michael, Milwaukee, WI

10/4/50 Appointed Assistant Pastor at St. Clement's in Sheboygan, WI effective October 6, 1950. (20259)

10/6/50 – Assistant Pastor, St. Clement's, Sheboygan, WI

12/6/51 District Seven Y.O. Scouting Director

9/24/55 Appointed Regional Director of the Catholic Youth Organization in Division 7, Sheboygan. (20266)

6/21/60 Appointed Assistant Pastor at St. Mary's in Hales Corners, WI effective July 7, 1960. (20275)

7/7/60 – Assistant Pastor, St. Mary's, Hales Corners, WI

5/31/62 Letter to Rev. Cousins from Peters expressing interest in the youth program, guidance and counseling in the high school program, and work in the CYO programs. (20276-20277)

8/16/62 Appointed Assistant Pastor at St. Patrick's Parish in Fond du Lac, WI effective August 29, 1962. (20278)

8/29/62 – Assistant Pastor, St. Patrick's Parish, Fond du Lac, WI

6/16/67 Appointed Faculty at Catholic Memorial High School in Waukesha, WI effective June 27, 1967. (20282)

6/27/67 – Faculty, Catholic Memorial High School, Waukesha, WI

5/23/69 Appointed Associate Pastor at St. Paul Parish in Milwaukee, WI effective June 17, 1969. (20294)

6/17/69 – Assistant Pastor, St. Paul Parish, Milwaukee, WI

7/31/69 Appointed Pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Fond du Lac, WI effective August 19, 1969. (20296)

8/19/69 – Pastor, St. Patrick, Fond du Lac, WI

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.

- 2/4/71 Letter to Bishop Brust from Peters, noting conversation with Don Rieff, questioning whether a letter of any kind should be sent. Peters wants to caution Brust on sending a letter too soon and to be careful of what kind of written promises are made. (20297)
- 2/28/71 Letter to Cousins from Peters, requesting a transfer from St. Patrick Parish for “personal reasons” after discussion with Bishop Brust. Requests to be appointed to a parish in the northern half of the diocese so that Peters can be near his sick father. Requests appointment immediately and not wait until June appointments. (20298)
- 3/17/71 Appointed Pastor at St. Mary, Sheboygan Falls effective April 13, 1971. (20299)
- 4/13/71 – Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Sheboygan Falls, WI
- 10/27/77 Appointed Pastor of St. Clement Parish in Sheboygan, WI effective November 15. (20304)
- 11/15/77 – Pastor, St. Clement Parish, Sheboygan, WI
- 7/19/82 Named as Chaplain to the Boy Scouts. (45807)
- 3/13/92 Letter from Peters to Priest Co-workers in District 9, asking not to enter his name as the district representative, he’s thinking of retiring when he turns 68 (in one year). (20411)
- 4/20/92 Letter from Peters to Weakland asking him to accept his retirement. (20410)
Includes letter that he almost sent to his priest co-workers but ultimately did not. That letter noted that “several things have been happening in my life in the past couple of years. Some are very personal...” (20412)
- 11/4/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 669. Call from the District Attorney reporting an anonymous phone call reporting sexual abuse against Peters that occurred between 1959-1960 at lake cottage in Cascade, WI. DA reported that the allegation was “so confused and without specifics.” Peters denied any sexual activity occurred. (45726) (45706) (58420)
- 11/7/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 690. RJS alerted Peters of the anonymous allegation received in Sheboygan. (45706)
- 12/3/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 738. Peters contacted RJS to see if there was any other info re: the anonymous allegation. RJS told him no. (45706)
- May 1993 - Retired
- 1/4/95 Letter from Peters to Sklba updating him on his life but highlighting that “My Scout activities are being reduced very dramatically.” (45771)

- 12/11/98 Letter from Sister Vasquez, Chancellor of the Diocese of Orlando to Weakland seeking a clear endorsement from the Diocese that Peters should be allowed to help out at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Lakeland. (20327)
- 1/4/99 Letter from Weakland to Sister Vasquez noting that he hasn't received complaints about Peters' current behavior. However, he notes that in 1992 there were several anonymous phone calls from men in their thirties who claim something happened when they were teenagers and Peters was involved in the Scout movement. The individuals would not come forward and the Archdiocese could not investigate the allegations. (45678)
- 9/24/99 Vicar Log Entry No. 572. RJS and Peters had a meeting regarding the anonymous allegation from 11/92. There was one, single anonymous call to the District Attorney in Sheboygan. Peters reported that he had received a call from an official from Orlando Diocese on 1/11/99 indicating that no Sacramental ministry could be exercised there because of lack of positive testimony from Milwaukee. RJS promised to review the status of the matter with the Archbishop since Peters still has full faculties in the Archdiocese. Peters acknowledged that he would deal with adolescents differently today. He had no recollection of inappropriate behavior. (58421)
- 11/30/99 Letter from Sklba to Peters regarding the renewal of his faculties and following up on their previous conversation, noting that Weakland has indicated a willingness to make adjustments and that Peters should initiate a letter seeking the extension of faculties for his current situation in retirement. (45681)
- 12/15/99 Letter from Peters to Weakland asking him to send a letter to the Orlando Diocese so he can do some "help out" in Lakeland. (20335)
- 12/27/99 Letter from Weakland to Rev. Dorsey, Diocese of Orlando, saying that Peters is a priest in good standing but "in the interest of candor and full disclosure," there was once an anonymous phone call regarding sexual improprieties of Peters, but that a full investigation surfaced no substantiation of this claim." (45685)
- 4/17/02 Letter from an unknown individual (redacted) to Weakland about sexual abuse by Peters 43 years ago when he the individual fifteen years old at Peters' dad's cabin. (32405)
- 4/23/02 Letter from Barbara Reinke to an unknown individual (redacted) asking for information so that the Archdiocese can start a detailed investigation because Peters is not known to the Archdiocese as someone who offended against minors. Reinke offers financial assistance with therapy. (32406)
- 5/2/02 Sexual Abuse Intake Report (regarding individual who reported originally in the letter dated 4/23/02) alleges abuse by Peters in 1959-1960 when the survivor was 16 years old and says there were other boys around who may also have been abused. Peters was heavily involved in the Boy Scouts. (123894)
- 5/10/02 Precept issued with restrictions placed on Peters. (20383)

- 5/17/02 Vicar Log Entry No. 422. Vicar contacts Peters to report an allegation that will require a Precept to be issued. (58421)
- 5/21/02 Vicar Log Entry No. 433. The vicar informs Peters of reported sexual abuse that took place in his father's house in 1959-1960. Peters recognized the name of the survivor and agrees to write the requested apology letter. Peters tells him of an anonymous allegation made about him in 1992 from the Sheboygan DA. Bishop Dorsey of Orlando wrote to Peters after conferring with Weakland forbidding him from exercising any public ministry in the Orlando Diocese. (58421)
- 5/22/02 Letter from Peters to an unknown individual who reported on 4/23/02 (intake report dated 5/2/02) apologizing for his "wrong actions." (20382)
- 6/15/02 Letter from Barbara Cusack to D.A. Wells enclosing Sexual Abuse Intake Report. (45690)
- 6/28/02 E-mail from Hornacek to all Archdiocesan priests, Deacons, and Parish Directors alerting them to the investigation by the Sheriff's department and admission of guilt by Peters. (45754)
- 6/28/02 Sheboygan County Sheriff's report about Peters' investigation. Says Peters showed the individual child porn. The individual believes there are others who Peters abused. (20219-20221)
- 7/1/02 Vicar Log Entry No. 469. RJS had a telephone conversation with the DA of Sheboygan who wanted to send some confidential material by fax. DA expressed his great appreciation for the cooperation received from Barbara Anne Cusack in the Chancery. (45708)
- 1/4/04 Letter from Peters to Hornacek and Sklba memorializing some of his memories of the events and what he heard from the accused. He notes that "some of this indicates to me that there must have been an earlier contact for Sklba to have called me in to his office in 1993. It seems there was an anonymous tip. He told me that he never saw anything in writing from the Archbishop in those earlier years." (20372)
- 7/04 Page from a sexual abuse investigation on Peters outlines Peters' assignments and says that the Archdiocese received an anonymous call in 1992 reporting abuse by Peters. Peters denied any sexual activity occurred. (45726)
- 11/8/04 Letter from Vicar Frederick to Bishop Dorsey of Orlando, informing him that Peters has a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse of a minor against him. (20343)
- 7/12/05 Memo from Barbara Ann Cusack to Dolan saying that Peters is close to choosing to petition for voluntary laicization. She wonders if the Archdiocese would consider putting \$10,000 into a health savings account for Peters. (45729)

- 7/18/05 Letter from Rev. Curt Frederick to Mr. Ritty (Peters advocate) regarding any assistance for Peters should he seek voluntary laicization. Ritty raised concerns around health care expenses. The Archdiocese would be willing to give Peters a lump sum of money to establish a health savings account for Peters. (45728)
- 7/29/05 Letter from Peters to Pope Benedict requesting laicization, stating “while I do not believe that every aspect of allegations presented by the archdiocese is accurate, I admit that some are.” Encloses CV. (20212-20213)
- 8/8/05 Letter from Dolan to Angelo Amato at the CDF regarding Peters’ request for voluntary laicization. Letter says that in 1971 Archbishop Cousins received a letter from Peters in which said he needed a speedy transfer of assignment as recommend by Auxiliary Bishop Brust as “the prudent way” given the circumstances. A second note was sent to Bishop Brust from Peters saying that nothing should be committed to writing and no letter sent to those concerned. Cousins transferred Peters to a new assignment a month later. (39902-39903)
- 8/29/05 Letter from Paul Hartmann, Judicial Vicar, to Amato enclosing the police investigation from July 2002. It says Peters denies any sexual contact with minors in the Boy Scouts but the Archdiocese has a contrary report. (39891)
- 9/05 Summary of the case against Peters that was sent to the CDF. Lists four survivors and says the first report was in 1992. (20206-20208)
- 10/6/07 CDF Dispensation of vows signed by Cardinal Levada, Prefect and Amato, Secretary. (39919-39920)

10/6/07 - Laicized