

## **TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING THOMAS A. TREPANIER<sup>1</sup>**

6/7/74 Weidman letter to Fliss (Vice-Chancellor and Secretary to the Archbishop) indicating surprise to learn of Trepanier's leave of absence. He knows that it soon followed a verbal confrontation with the Regent of Studies concerning his community life as well as his social life. (15900-15901)

### **5/24/75 – Ordained**

5/27/75 Cousins letter to Trepanier appointing him Associate Pastor at St. Agnes in Butler, effective June 17, 1975. (15929)

### **6/17/75 – Associate Pastor, St. Agnes Parish, Butler, WI**

5/27/77 Cousins letter to Trepanier releasing him for Further Studies at Marquette University, effective June 14, 1977. (46570)

### **6/14/77 – Further Studies, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI**

8/6/77 Trepanier letter to Cousins indicating that, while attending Marquette University, he is living at Sacred Heart Monastery, has completed six weeks of summer school, and is doing part-time work on weekends at St. Alphonsus parish. (15933)

5/30/78 Weakland letter to Trepanier denying the request from Sacred Heart School of Theology that Trepanier serve full time in their Field Education Department; however, they wrote a glowing account of Trepanier's qualifications. (15934)

6/17/78 Weakland letter to Trepanier appointing him Associate Pastor at St. Robert Parish in Shorewood, effective June 25, 1978. (15937)

### **6/25/78 – Associate Pastor, St. Robert Parish, Shorewood, WI**

5/7/80 Vicar Log No. 205. Trepanier called to say he wants to meet next week and that "the stress is too much for him." (16301)

5/14/80 Vicar Log Entry No. 238. Indicates long meeting with Trepanier to discuss the St. Robert situation. He agreed not to move out of the rectory as planned. Trepanier agreed that he must relinquish administration to the new pastor in order to relieve some of the stress and tension it has brought him. (16301)

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

7/14/80 Reith (Assistant Chancellor) letter to Trepanier appointing him temporary administrator at St. Robert's Parish in Milwaukee, effective July 15, 1980. (16284)

7/15/80 – Temporary Administrator, St. Robert Parish, Milwaukee, WI

3/26/81 Periodic Evaluation of Trepanier indicates Trepanier finds emotional maintenance difficult as a priest. Celibacy is part of the frustration but other factors of sacerdotal life take a toll as well. (46697-46701)

3/21/83 Trepanier letter to Janicki requesting leave of absence to complete a Master's Degree in counseling at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and will help-out at St. Hedwig on weekends or when needed. (16337)

1983 – Further Studies at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee

4/4/85 Neuman letter to Trepanier indicating that he has been recommended by the Priest's Personnel Board to the Pastorate of St. John de Nepomuc Parish in Milwaukee. (16281-16282)

4/12/85 Weakland letter to Trepanier appointing him Pastor of St. John de Nepomuc Parish in Milwaukee, effective May 15, 1985. (15957)

5/15/85 – Pastor, St. John de Nepomuc Parish, Milwaukee, WI

3/27/87 Trepanier letter to Sklba regarding priest evaluations and indicating he has gone through several years of personal psychotherapy. (16278-16279)

12/29/87 Weakland letter to Trepanier appointing him part-time Associate Executive Secretary of the Priests' Personnel Board, effective January 1, 1988 for a six-month period. His assignment at St. John de Nepomuc in Milwaukee continues until June 14, 1988. (15962)

4/15/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 337. Received formal request from Trepanier for alternate residence in order to be available for counseling as needed in Trepanier's new position as executive secretary to the personnel board. Sklba is willing to authorize the request since they will be in frequent communication and thereby able to be supportive while monitoring the situation. (16302)

6/1/88 – Executive Secretary of the Priests' Personnel Board

6/8/88 Weakland letter to Trepanier appointing him Executive Secretary of the Priests' Personnel Board, effective June 1, 1988. (15963)

3/30/90 Gross letter to Trepanier appointing him temporary administrator at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Milwaukee, effective April 1, 1990. (16375)

4/1/90 – Temporary Administrator, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Milwaukee, WI

- 1/16/91 Pulice letter to Trepanier approving his request for taking a sabbatical in the fall of 1992 while he attends a program at North American College. (16394)
- 1/17/92 Trepanier letter to Weakland formalizing conversation in which Trepanier expressed a desire to complete five years in his position as Executive Secretary of the Priests' Personnel Board and then seek another ministry. Trepanier would like to open list his position this spring. (15966)
- 2/11/92 Weakland letter to Trepanier approving his resignation from the Priests' Personnel Board effective June 1993. (15965)
- 10/29/92 Parishioner letter to the Priest Personnel Board expressing concern with how the church handles sexually abusive priests and voicing support for married clergy. (16248)
- 11/4/92 Trepanier response to letter dated 10/29/92 stating that he shared her letter with the Personnel Board. Further stated that the Personnel Board has worked for the past six years with the police, District Attorney, and social services to ensure the safety of survivors and that justice be served. (16246)
- 2/1/93 Sklba letter to Trepanier appointing him Temporary Administrator at St. Mary Czestochowa, effective February 8, 1993 and until the pastor of St. Mary Czestochowa returns. (15967)

2/8/93 – Temporary Administrator, St. Mary Czestochowa Parish, Milwaukee, WI

- 5/12/93 Weakland letter to Trepanier appointing him Pastor of St. Sylvester Parish in South Milwaukee, effective June 22, 1993. (16236)

6/22/93 – Pastor, St. Sylvester Parish, South Milwaukee, WI

- 8/8/95 Weakland letter to Trepanier appointing him to the office of Dean for District 15. (15969)
- 8/29/96 Trepanier e-mail to Weakland thanking him for his recent letter regarding his situation and resigning from his position as Dean of District 15; he believes he has "more than simple stress and his testiness is unhealthy for the church." Indicates issues with administrative staff. (16444) On August 30, 1996 Trepanier wrote to the priest and Parish Directors regarding his resignation. Commitments as the pastor of a growing parish have left little energy for the position of Dean of District 15. (15971)

- 9/5/96 Weakland letter to Trepanier accepting his resignation as Dean of District 15. (15972)
- 12/2/98 Sexual Abuse Intake Report documenting abuse by Trepanier when the individual was 15-18 years old in 1977-1979 at St. Robert Parish in Shorewood. (123897)
- 12/4/98 E-mail from abuse survivor who reported on 12/2/98 to Piasecki enclosing materials regarding Trepanier. (46347) Narrative of relationship with Trepanier. (123897)
- 12/8/98 Vicar Log Entry No. 835. Sklba and Kohler met with Trepanier and it was agreed that he not have any contact with unsupervised minors and that Trepanier make an appointment with a psychiatrist in order to assess the current situation. (16304)
- 12/9/98 Piasecki Entry for the Chart of the individual who reported on 12/2/98 regarding Trepanier. Sklba returned a call regarding his meeting with Trepanier. Trepanier acknowledged some "inappropriate behavior" occurred with the exception of a few details that [redacted] provided. Sklba put him on avoidance of all unsupervised contact with minors and Trepanier reportedly said that he has done that for years. Asked Trepanier to meet with a psychiatrist at Milwaukee Psychiatric Hospital for consultation. Sklba authorized payment of counseling expenses for the individual. (16135)
- Piasecki Entry for the Chart of individual who reported on 12/2/98. Trepanier felt that [redacted] was a junior in high school when he met him. Trepanier is taking a few days off and Fr. Wheatley will be covering Mass for now. (16136)
- 12/11/98 Piasecki Entry for the Chart of individual who reported on 12/2/98. Piasecki spoke with Sklba about Trepanier. Sklba imposed restrictions of no unaccompanied conduct with minors beginning immediately. Trepanier to receive a psychological evaluation as soon as possible. Sklba and Reinke agreed to share the information dictated in the entry with the survivor, that a psychological evaluation of Trepanier would take some time, and that any decision on the future of Trepanier at St. Sylvester's would most likely push past the Christmas Season. (16137)
- 12/14/98 Piasecki Entry for the Chart of individual who reported on 12/2/98. Spoke with [redacted] to inform him that Trepanier had been sent for a form of psychological evaluation and that the process of sorting out all the facts and coming to a conclusion could take us past Christmas. The individual had talked with his mother, and that, he believes, from his conversation with his mother, that there were other minors perhaps involved with Trepanier when he was assigned at St. Robert's. Individual notes that his mother may have more information about that. (16138)
- 12/14/98 Piasecki Entry for the Chart of Trepanier. She spoke with representative at

Catholic Mutual Insurance who was stunned by the allegation against Trepanier. She wondered if they have to acknowledge the reason for Trepanier's removal if the Diocese chooses to remove him, and that perhaps they could say it was for personal reasons so as not to mess up the ongoing investigation and charging regarding an unrelated embezzlement problem that Trepanier was assisting Catholic Mutual with. (16162)

- 12/24/98 Vicar Log Entry No. 497. Trepanier has two more appointments with the psychiatrist. Trepanier gives permission to release information necessary to the diocese for the evaluation. Trepanier is reminded not to have contact with the individual's family and that he may be asked to leave St. Sylvester's before June of 1999. Trepanier was surprised to learn this. Trepanier was told that this would probably happen if other allegations surfaced. (16305)
- 1/4/99 Psychiatrist (Medical College of WI) letter to Hornacek. Seen Trepanier for three diagnostic sessions in conjunction with an allegation of sexual misconduct with an adolescent 23 years ago. Reports that there has been no repeat in that behavior for which he was alleged to be engaged since that time. Report states that there is no acute current risk in repeating the behavior, recommends continuation of counseling and could continue in his current assignment until June 1999 provided he have no unsupervised contact with minors. Recommends that one or two people in Trepanier's current assignment be assigned a supervisory role, that Tom McGuine be involved in the case, and that after June 1999 Trepanier be moved into a non-parochial, non-administrative position. (16106-16107)
- 1/31/99 Trepanier letter to Members of St. Sylvester Parish informing them of his pastoral position being open in the spring and that he finds himself struggling with some burn-out issues, low emotional energy and in need of some self care. (16445)
- 2/8/99 Piasecki Entry for chart of individual who reported on 12/2/1998. Received a call wanting to know who Trepanier's therapist was previously in relation to the time frame in which the abuse occurred. Individual believes that the therapist should have reported abuse if Trepanier had talked about it. Piasecki explained that there is an opinion from the Attorney General's office of the state of Wisconsin in which mandatory reporting is not applicable when the offender seeks treatment, although the therapist may report without penalty, but the attorney general's opinion has been that mandatory reporting applies when a child is seen in therapy. (16078)
- 02/99 Restrictions and Conditions of Ministry. Restrictions include that Trepanier is to continue in therapy and refrain from all unaccompanied and unsupervised contact with minors, no contact with the individual or his family, and Trepanier will cooperate with the monitor appointed by the Vicar for Clergy. (16449-50)
- 2/12/99 Trepanier letter to Weakland stating that he will not seek another psychological evaluation. Trepanier states that he believes it is best for him to continue the

weekly sessions with his psychiatrist for the time being rather than to seek another evaluation at this time. (16145)

- 3/25/99 Weakland response to Trepanier letter dated 2/12/99 indicating he cannot assign him to a parish without more assurance that such is possible without undue risk. (16144)
- 3/29/99 Trepanier letter to Weakland thanking him for Weakland's response to his letter of 2/12/99. Trepanier states that he is appreciative of the opportunity to complete his term of office as Pastor of St. Sylvester Parish. Trepanier states that the letter is clear enough regarding Trepanier's not getting another assignment, but that Trepanier was surprised by the letter because he thought he would at least have some type of meeting with the Archbishop regarding the situation. Trepanier states that Piasecki's report has a number of substantive errors and that it falsely accuses him of things he did not do at a time when he was not even at the parish in question. (16454-16455)
- 4/10/99 Trepanier letter to Weakland responding to allegations made against him and taking responsibility for one inappropriate contact with the minor who reported on 12/2/98 who was then in the last half of his 17<sup>th</sup> year according to Trepanier. (16146-48)
- 4/19/99 Weakland letter to Trepanier indicating they did not proceed in their usual fashion when the allegations were first made, and, as a result Trepanier was not given a chance to rebut the individual's comments or allegations. Weakland says that the individual's statement is how the individual remembers the events, and the Archdiocese has not taken steps to corroborate statements. Trepanier has every right to deny them, but they have stood there unsubstantiated because we did not proceed as we usually do in such cases. Weakland states that if it seems necessary to make a complete investigation, then he will do so regardless of the costs to Trepanier's reputation. Weakland says that some might say they acted too leniently when leaving Trepanier in his position at St. Sylvester's and not pursuing the course of investigation they normally do. (16149-16150)
- 6/25/99 Psychiatric letter to Weakland. Trepanier is not an ephebophile and not a pedophile, his sexual orientation appears to be homosexual. There are no other situations involving persons under 18. Does not believe him to be a current danger in any way. (16456-16457)

7/1/99 – Personal Leave (16210)

- 7/13/99 Weakland letter to Trepanier approving his request for a six month health leave with faculties. Weakland received the report on 6/25/99 from the psychiatrist and makes the decision in light of the psychiatrists report. After six months they will review the situation. Restrictions outlined previously by the Vicar for Clergy remain in place unless determined otherwise. (46852)

- 7/19/99 Vicar Log Entry. Trepanier granted sick leave with faculties. (46355)
- 9/14/99 Vicar Log Entry No. 682. Trepanier is called to reassure him he is free to accept help-out opportunities in the Archdiocese apart from St. Sylvester's. No disclosure of his past would be required except at time of new assignment. (16306)
- 10/14/99 Trepanier e-mail to Weakland stating that he is studying Spanish at MATC and does an occasional Mass at St. Camillus. He will help-out at IC next weekend, but he is trying to keep a low profile for all of our sakes. (16477)
- 3/9/00 Trepanier letter to Hornacek indicating he met with the Archbishop to discuss future assignment. Archbishop told Trepanier of his plans for AIDS ministry and Raphael House, but that did not materialize. Perhaps Trepanier will move into some type of chaplaincy. Archbishop told Trepanier to contact Hornacek regarding possible future assignment. (16479)
- 6/6/00 Piasecki letter to individual who reported on 12/2/98 indicating Trepanier was removed from parish ministry a year ago in June, 1999. Trepanier is currently unassigned and understands that he will never return to parish ministry. Trepanier has cooperated fully with the Vicars for Clergy. There have been no other allegations against Trepanier to this day and Trepanier, to the best of Piasecki's knowledge, continues in treatment. (57642-43)
- 8/12/00 Vicar Log Entry No. 727. Trepanier agrees with Hornacek that the hospital president at St. Joseph's where Trepanier will assume the chaplaincy should be informed of his personal history and someone on staff would serve as a monitor. Will contact hospital president week of August 21<sup>st</sup>. (16307)
- 8/24/00 Vicar Log Entry No. 750. Vicar reported on his conversation with the president of St. Joseph Hospital in which he informed the president of Trepanier's history. History will be served with Trepanier's monitor as well. (16307)
- 10/19/00 Weakland letter to Trepanier appointing him Associate Pastor at St. Dominic Parish in Brookfield, effective November 28, 2000. (15981)
- 11/28/00 – Associate Pastor, St. Dominic Parish, Brookfield, WI
- 1/29/01 Catholic Mutual letter to Schneider indicating that Trepanier's recent appointment to St. Dominic presents an uninsured exposure for the Archdiocese. No coverage if subsequent claims are brought involving Trepanier. (57652-57653).
- 2/11/02 Vicar Log Entry No. 114. Trepanier asked to explain his application for a social worker position while being available for parish help-out on weekends. Trepanier asked to withdraw application for social worker both because that type of

assignment has not worked out well for the Church when such priests refuse to return to a parochial setting and because it causes morale problems among the clergy when it appears some priest is “writing his own ticket.”. (16310)

- 2/12/01 Hornacek letter to Trepanier in response to February 1, 2001 meeting where Trepanier asked Hornacek to describe in a letter Trepanier’s current status for ministry. Psychiatrist report on June 22, 2000 testifying to Trepanier’s diligent work in therapy, extraordinary progress in self-understanding and solid mastery of issues which were of concern. Psychiatrist further reported that he would continue to meet with Trepanier perhaps every four to six months. Psychiatrist report (second opinion) dated June 25, 1999 reported conducting an extensive psychiatric evaluation of Trepanier on June 21, 1999. Psychiatrist reported that from the results of the evaluation Trepanier is not an ephebophile, certainly not a pedophile, that he has been in therapy since December 1998, and that Trepanier is not a danger in any way. Trepanier has been diligently following the restrictions and conditions of ministry imposed on him by the Vicar for Clergy since February 17, 1999, and continues to observe the restrictions faithfully. Following the report on June 22, 2000, efforts were made to secure a chaplaincy position in a non-parochial position. A chaplaincy position was unavailable. With full confidence in the evaluation reports of the two psychiatrists, the Archbishop appointed Trepanier to serve as Associate Pastor of St. Dominic. The appointment was made only after the pastor, the Chairperson of the Parish Council, and the Parish Trustees were informed of Trepanier’s history and of the restrictions and conditions for ministry which continue in place. These persons serve as on-site monitors. (46897-98)
- 1/15/02 Trepanier letter to Parish Council and Pastoral Staff informing them of his request to seek reassignment in June due to the 40 mile per day trip and demands of a large suburban parish. (46899)
- 4/3/02 Hornacek letter to Trepanier informing him of the Special Commission that will be reviewing all diocesan policies concerning the Archdiocese’s response to sexual abuse cases; it will include Trepanier’s case. (46900)
- 5/1/02 Trepanier letter to Weakland requesting resignation from active ministry and apologizing for his role in embarrassing the Church. (16151)
- 5/8/02 Weakland letter to Trepanier acknowledging his resignation letter. (16204)
- 5/15/02 Check from the Archdiocese for \$20,000 to Trepanier. (56228)
- 5/31/02 Fax from St. Dominic – Statement and letter to Parents regarding Trepanier’s resignation from St. Dominic’s. Announcement states that there was an old allegation of clergy misconduct in Trepanier’s file. The allegation involved a teen. The incident occurred over 20 years ago. Fr. Frederick was made aware of the allegation when Trepanier was assigned to St. Dominic, and he received a



letter stating that Trepanier was no pedophile nor ephebophile, nor that he posed any danger “in any way.” While at St. Dominic, Trepanier was monitored on site and was restricted from having unsupervised individual contact with a minor. The restriction did not prevent him from teaching in the school classroom. Trepanier was monitored during his time at St. Dominic’s by the Archdiocese. (58767)

- Undated Trepanier letter to Dolan discussing his resignation and the allegations against him. (46626-46628)
- 11/4/02 Dolan letter to Trepanier thanking him for stepping down from his assignment at Sklba’s request. Awaiting clearer resolution from the Holy See and the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. (15999)
- 12/5/02 Dolan letter to parishioners discussing Trepanier’s allegations. (46638)
- 12/16/02 Trepanier e-mail to Schweihs indicating he has not received financial support from the Archdiocese since 11/1/02. (56225)
- 1/1/04 Dolan letter to individual who reported on 12/2/98 indicating dispute resolution services will be available mid-January, Catholic Charities is offering a support group, financial assistance for psychotherapy remains available, and he continues to meet with victim-survivors. (16094-95)
- 2/19/04 Reinke letter to individual who reported on 12/2/98 indicating the findings of the John Jay Study will soon be released. (16092-93)
- 4/19/02 Vicar Log Entry No. 317. Trepanier will ask the Archbishop for a year of study leave, he needs to get out from under the “shame-based” stress of waiting for the publication of his name. (16309)
- 7/8/04 Dolan letter to individual who reported on 12/2/98 indicating that he has authorized the release of the names of priests who are now or would have been restricted from all priestly ministries. (46338)
- 8/12/04 Agreement and Mutual Release with [redacted] who reported abuse by Trepanier on 12/2/98 for \$25,000 and \$15,000 for reimbursement of past therapy bills. Archdiocese agrees to provide payment not covered by insurance for counseling for the individual and his immediate family members. (56712-56715)
- 9/7/04 Dolan letter to Cardinal Ratzinger submitting Trepanier’s case for review. Requesting that the Archdiocese be authorized to conduct a penal trial to determine the facts that Trepanier disputes and what, if any, penal remedy should be assessed. (16155-16156). Index of documents sent to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. (46680)

- 9/8/04 Cusack letter to Rev. Gabriel Montalvo indicating that Dolan has asked that she send the enclosed response by diplomatic pouch. (16313)
- 9/13/04 Msgr. Loepoldo Girelli letter to Cusack acknowledging her letter of 9/8/04, with enclosure. (16159)
- 10/6/05 Angelo Amato (SDB Titular Archbishop of Sila Secretary) letter to Dolan authorizing an administrative penal process regarding Trepanier. (16123-16124)
- 11/28/05 Letter from Dolan to Trepanier informing him a penal process was authorized and asking if he would prefer to request voluntary laicization. (16008)
- 12/6/05 Ritty (Canonical Counselor for Trepanier) letter to Dolan indicating Trepanier does not wish to return to the lay state. (16161)
- Dolan Decree opening the administrative penal process against Trepanier. (46676)
- 1/30/06 Ritty letter to Dolan writing as Trepanier's canonical counsel and enclosing the Defense Statement for Trepanier. (16120)
- 5/15/06 Dolan letter to Rev. Angelo Amato indicating it is his conclusion that Trepanier should be dismissed from the clerical state. (46681-46682).
- 6/5/06 Cusack letter to Ritty indicating that she was asked by Dolan to advise Ritty that he has completed his deliberations in the Trepanier case. (46672)
- 1/15/08 Dolan letter to Angelo Amato indicating he pondered their suggestion imposing a ten-year precept on Trepanier and then reconsider his return to ministry. Dolan submits that such a resolution is not tenable. Dolan states that ten years will not eradicate the facts in this matter; Trepanier sexually abused a minor and can never, therefore, function as a priest again. Dolan states that there is no such thing as a 'safe' ministry when his background is publicly known by his own admissions. (46674)
- 11/9/08 Trepanier letter to Frederick indicating he has been waiting six and a half years for the CDF to make a decision on his canonical case, requests a written description of current position as a validly ordained priest. (46690-46691)
- 11/21/08 Frederick letter to Trepanier indicating he is not sure why the CDF has not responded definitively, but no one has the "push or pull to get a quick response from the CDF." (46689)
- 4/8/09 Luis F. Ladaria (Titular Archbishop of Thibica) letter indicating the Archdiocese has been asked to reconsider its decision regarding Trepanier. Because the individual was over 16 at the time the immoral acts occurred, the Congregation suggests prohibiting any public ministry for an indeterminate time rather than for

a specific number of years. The letter states that the solution suggested protects minors, the good of the Church and the credibility of the Archdiocese in dealing with these scandalous cases of sexual abuse. (46686)

Undated Handwritten notes indicate an evaluation will occur and someone will serve as a monitor. Indicates the Archdiocese has no liability insurance. Lists options for Trepanier, including allowing him to stay on as a pastor or insisting on going to Southdown. (16103-16104)

Undated Outline of allegations against Trepanier. (16157-58)

Undated Memo detailing how the Archdiocese should proceed when confronted with allegations. (55850)