

TIMELINE OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING DAVID HANSER¹

5/28/58 – Ordained

6/11/58 Appointed Assistant at Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa, WI effective June 20, 1958. (12114)

6/20/58 – Assistant, Christ King Parish, Wauwatosa, WI

5/19/59 Letter from Hanser to “your excellency” discussing the “situation” he found himself in at Christ King. He says he did not know what to do about the “events.” Appears Hanser did not initially get along with his pastor, and he apologizes for his immaturity and over-idealistic outlook. (12116-12117)

6/21/60 Appointed Assistant at Sacred Heart Parish in Racine, WI effective July 7, 1960. (12118)

7/7/60 – Assistant, Sacred Heart Parish, Racine, WI

6/21/61 Appointed to Faculty of Catholic Memorial High School in Waukesha, WI effective July 6, 1961. (12119)

7/6/61 – Faculty, Catholic Memorial High School, Waukesha, WI

1/10/69 Priest Personal Data Form shows Hanser’s exclusive interest is “education on secondary level in field of guidance & counseling.” If he has to be assigned to a parish, he would prefer to do youth work. (40395)

5/19/70 Appointed to Faculty of St. Joseph’s High School in Kenosha, WI effective June 16, 1970. (40394)

6/16/70 – Faculty, St. Joseph’s High School, Kenosha, WI

5/16/72 Appointed Associate Pastor at St. John Vianney Parish in Brookfield, WI effective June 13, 1972. (12123)

5/13/72 – Associate Pastor, St. John Vianney Parish, Brookfield, WI

9/17/75 Appointed Temporary Administrator of St. John Vianney. (12125)

9/17/75 – Temporary Administrator, St. John Vianney Parish, Brookfield, WI

11/29/75 Letter from Rev. Donald Weber to an unknown (redacted) woman referencing her report about “Fr. H,” who he says is willing to discuss the matter or agreeable to

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.

keeping in contact with Weber on this matter and if the alleged indiscretion has any further complications. (12046)

5/24/78 Appointed Associate Pastor at Holy Family Parish, Whitefish Bay, WI effective June 13, 1978. (12130)

6/13/78 – Associate Pastor, Holy Family Parish, Whitefish Bay, WI

1/20/82 Appointed Pastor at St. Mary's Parish in Pewaukee, WI effective February 9, 1982. (11753)

2/9/82 – Pastor, St. Mary's Parish, Pewaukee, WI

7/22/82 Vicar Log Entry No. 694. The Archbishop received a letter saying that Hanser uses "vial and terrible language" in front of children, which Hanser denies. (11721)

9/85-12/85 – Sabbatical in Jerusalem

7/8/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 678. Sklba met with a man whose brothers allege that Hanser sexually abused them. Sklba later spoke with Hanser and put him on administrative leave in order to protect all parties concerned. Sklba notes that he is following the administrative procedures outlined in the Clergy Manual for such allegations. (11676)

7/11/88 Letter from Sklba to Hanser placing Hanser on administrative leave from St. Mary's as of July 12, 1988 and suggesting that he take up residence at Bethany House. (11758)

7/12/88 – Administrative Leave

7/14/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 691. Sklba met with the same family who is alleging that two brothers were abused by Hanser. (See Vicar Log Entry No. 678 on 7/8/88). He was informed that earlier in the spring the Waukesha County Child Abuse Office and City of Pewaukee Police were contacted. Two brothers allege they were abused by Hanser, and another mentions on unsuccessful attempted encounter when he was 18 or 19. The family wanted assurance that Hanser would not be allowed to function in situations where such activity could continue. (11692)

7/25/88 Letter from the man who reported Hanser's abuse of his 2 brothers in July 1988 to Sklba referencing a meeting Sklba had at their house. States that they don't want Hanser to affect other kids and that "I assume you will be contacting individuals in his former parishes for similar stories." The author writes of a rumor that Hanser was involved in an incident with an altar boy at St. John Vianney and someone else knows the name of a principal that knew of Hanser. (11759)

- 8/3/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 780. Sklba met with another brother in the same family who alleges that he has had a relationship with Hanser from his senior year of high school or first year of college and intermittently ever since. Also met with the boys' father. (11678)
- 8/10/88 Letter from Sklba to the brother he met on 8/3/88 thanking him for meeting with Sklba and for his candor and confidence. Sklba says the resources of his office are limited but he will make assistance to the victim a priority. (12070)
- 8/25/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 840. Sklba called Bishop Maida of Green Bay about Hanser's case and Maida advised him to limit Hanser's faculties and to have him evaluated during the investigation. Sklba called St. Barnabas Center, St. Luke's in Maryland, and Southdown in Toronto about seeing Hanser. (11725)
- 9/25/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 946. Hanser agreed to enter an evaluation program at St. Barnabas Center. (12052)
- 11/1/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 1070. Sklba met with Hanser's attorney, Charles Hausmann, about the future of Hanser's ministry. Hanser is seeing a counselor. One of his victims proposed a settlement of \$500,000. Sklba recommends that Hanser resign from the pastorate at St. Mary's, take some time to continue counseling, and then either seek work in hospital ministry or training in a different area some time down the line. (40250)
- 11/22/88 Vicar Log Entry No. 1114. Sklba insisted on Hanser resigning from St. Mary's in Pewaukee. Noted that Hanser "is currently assisting Gene Newman at St. Kilian's (having explained the entire situation to Gene)." (11697)
- 11/26/88 Letter from Hanser to Sklba resigning as Pastor at St. Mary's Parish and being placed as "awaiting assignment" per Sklba's request. (12222)
- 12/6/88 Sklba letter to Hanser accepting resignation and placing Hanser in the canonical category of "awaiting assignment" until a mutually acceptable placement can be found in June. (11775)
- 1/9/89 Letter from the man who reported Hanser's abuse of his 2 brothers in July 1988 to Sklba stating that it has been 6 months and they want to know what is being done in the case. One of their objectives is to make sure that Hanser cannot molest other kids. (11779)
- 1/17/89 Letter from Sklba to the man who reported Hanser's abuse of his 2 brothers in July 1988 victim acknowledging that the matters they previously discussed are serious and complex and advising that an extensive investigation has not revealed any evidence of Hanser's further inappropriate relationships with minors. Nevertheless, Hanser was on administrative leave when they first met in July 1988, and he has now been asked to resign and undergo professional counseling. (11778)

- 1/23/89 Letter from Sklba to one of the abused brothers. The other abused brother met with an attorney and requested a large sum of money, but Sklba's office only has a small amount of resources to dedicate to counseling costs. Larger settlements are beyond his authority and require the judgment of legal counsel and possible civil action. (11780)
- 2/20/89 In his personnel board report, Hanser advises that as of February 27, 1989 he will be enrolled in the basic C.P.E. course at St. Luke's Hospital for 3 months and will then move to the 2nd step of C.P.E. at St. Joseph's Hospital for 3 months. Does not want his name put out as "available." (40490-40491)
- 2/21/89 Vicar Log Entry No. 190. Fr. Don Sass called reporting that Hanser was taking a chaplain course. In light of rumors of alleged pedophilia, Sass wonders if he needs more information. Sklba acknowledged an allegation from years back and said the hospital should designate areas of adult patients pending the conclusion of the investigation. (11697)
- 5/1/89 Letter from Hanser to Sklba discussing his schooling, noting that counseling "has been well worth the effort," and mentioning that he continues to do help out work at St. Kilian's in Hartford with Fr. Newman. (11786)
- 10/17/89 Letter from Sklba to Psychological Services saying that one of the brothers has brought a lawsuit against the Archdiocese, so the Archdiocese has been advised that it can no longer provide financial assistance for counseling. (12090)
- 10/23/89 Vicar Log Entry No. 899. Notes that a file was discovered on this date in Bishop Leo Brust's locked drawer "indicating an allegation from 1975" related to a specific family. Sklba states that this was unknown to him before that date. (11729) Note dated "11/75" states that author was informed that Hanser took a teenage boy to his cottage at the lake and went to bed with the boy and touched him indecently. Hanser gave rather evasive answers when confronted. The boy's family is moving out of state and there has been no response from the boy's mother (012045)
- 10/25/89 Sklba letter to Hanser indicating that they are working towards getting him a chaplaincy position (11788)
- 12/22/89 Statement of Sklba: "in view of serious allegations raised regarding ministry of Fr. Hanser some 15-20 years ago, Archdiocese of Milwaukee has attempted to respond in responsible fashion for the benefit of all parties concerned...the opinion of professionals will be respected in selecting any future assignment for him, ministry will be restricted re: alleged vulnerable portions of church membership, and appropriate supervision provided." (40125)
- 1/10/90 Letter from Sklba to the man who reported the abuse of 2 brothers in July 1988 stating that the Archdiocese will not assign Hanser to a position with incidental contact with children and Hanser will be supervised at any future assignments. (11795)

- 1/10/90 Vicar Log Entry No. 47. Sklba spoke to Fr. Richard O'Donnell, Chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital, to make sure that he understands the special supervisory needs Hanser has. Noted that Hanser would work in the geriatric section with adequate supervision without any assignment to pediatric wards. (11731)
- 2/4/91 Letter from Sklba to Bishop Joseph Ryan with the Archdiocese for the Military services in Silver Spring, MD- Sklba grants Hanser permission to work at Zablocki Medical Center in Milwaukee (a veterans hospital) and states that he disclosed his background to the hospital and said that Hanser should not work with children. Sklba seeks Ryan's endorsement of Hanser. (11807)
- 2/11/91 – Hanser working at St. Joseph Hospital/Zablocki Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI
(11812)
- 4/10/91 Letter from Bishop Francis Roque, Veterans Affairs, to Sklba telling him that they prefer not to endorse Hanser for the Zablocki Medical Center job. (11806)
- 7/18/91 Letter from Hanser's therapist to Sklba assuring him that Hanser does not present any risk to any age person with whom he might work, and that based on his experience as a therapist, Hanser's prognosis is excellent and he is capable of handling any stress that his current work might bring. (40520)
- 7/22/91 Vicar Log Entry No. 816. Discusses letter from Hanser's therapist saying that Hanser had worked through his problems in 2.5 years of therapy and "does not now present any risk to any age person with whom he might work." (11686)
- 9/10/91 Letter from Rev. O'Donnell from St. Joseph's Hospital saying that Hanser has been assisting at St. Joseph's for some time and is now a resident chaplain. Recommends Hanser for certification as a chaplain. (11813)
- 1/13/92 Letter from Sklba to Hanser saying he has learned of some concerns related to Hanser's future status at St. Joseph's Hospital. (11990)
- 3/31/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 139. Tom Venne and Sklba met with Hanser and approved his full time ministry at St. Joseph's Hospital on the conditions that his supervisor knew the history of the allegation and Hanser agreed not to entertain unsupervised adolescents at his cottage and agreed that he wouldn't work in the pediatrics section. (11734)
- 4/15/92 Fr. Thomas Venne, Vicar for Clergy, letter to Fr. O'Donnell, (Sklba cc'd) approving Hanser for full time chaplain position at St. Joseph where he was already working. States that he has the restriction of not working with anyone under 18. (11819)
- 5/14/92 Hanser signs his agreement to the following restrictions related to St. Joseph Hospital: 1) no unsupervised ministry or visitations with anyone under 18; 2) no one under 18 unsupervised at his residence or cottage; and 3) continue to get regular therapy. (12024)

- 11/23/92 Vicar Log Entry No. 710. O'Donnell advises Sklba that he has informed the CEO of the hospital of Hanser's full background. (11734)
- 5/25/95 Letter from Weakland to Hanser stating that he has reviewed priests accused of misconduct and his concern is "both to ensure that the integrity of the priesthood is upheld and to protect the diocese from any allegations of improper monitoring which might place persons at risk." Restrictions are imposed to protect all involved. Weakland says that although he was never assigned at St. Joseph hospital, he can no longer volunteer there. Also enclosed is a precept which states Hanser is to have no contact with minors and cease all public function as a priest. (11986)
- 6/21/95 Letter from Weakland to Hanser giving permission to do a wedding. He writes: "You know that there is an aggressive network of those who feel they were/are victims" and public appearance in priestly ministry by Hanser is the occasion for reaction by the victims and unfortunate publicity. (11977)
- 7/31/95 Letter from Hanser's therapist to Weakland saying that he is willing to continue to monitor Hanser's progress and personally accepts responsibility for assuring that his work is above reproach. (40679)
- 8/10/95 Letter from Hanser to Weakland detailing compliance with all restrictions and required counseling since 1988, as well as requesting permission to go back to work at St. Joseph Hospital pursuant to his doctor's offer to assume complete legal and personal responsibility for Hanser's ministry. (12185-12186)
- 9/13/95 Letter from Weakland to Hanser stating that given Hanser's doctor's assurances Hanser can resume limited work again at St. Joseph's hospital. Hanser's only public ministry is to be celebration of the sacraments in the hospital setting, and he still cannot have any contact with kids. (12188)
- 3/21/96 Vicar Log Entry No. 262. Sklba spoke with the Director of Pastoral Care at St. Joseph's Hospital to alert him to the existence of allegations from the past about Hanser and advise of both Hanser's restrictions and the assurances given to the Archdiocese by Hanser's therapist. (11703)
- 4/26/96 Vicar Log Entry No. 427. Summarizing Sklba's conversation with the Director of Pastoral Care in which he conveys the anger of the hospital administrator that he was never told anything of the past allegations involving Hanser. Sklba notes that this is not true. The entire matter was discussed (see Vicar Log Entry No. 710 on 11/23/92). Conversation reveals that hospital may terminate Hanser based on recent negative review of his condition provided by his therapist. (11703)
- 5/17/96 Vicar Log Entry No. 510. Hanser agreed to support/monitoring with Deacon Thomas McGuine. (11703)
- 3/23/02 Letter from Hanser to Weakland requesting formal retirement on his 70th birthday, May 6, 2002. (12224)

- 4/2/02 Letter from Weakland to Hanser accepting his retirement as of May 6, 2002. (12003)
- 4/3/02 Precept signed by Weakland with restrictions on Hanser and prohibiting him from contact with minors and from engaging in any public ministry. (12217)
- 4/4/02 Memo from Barbara Reinke about her conversation with the spouse of one of the abused brothers who reported in July 1988. Spouse is concerned about Hanser's whereabouts and wants to review his files. She was upset because Hanser was working in a hospital, but is assured that he was always under supervision during that work and has now retired. (57500)
- 4/15/02 Memo from Reinke about her conversation with the brother who reported in July 1988 and whose wife called on 4/4/02. She assured him that Hanser's ministry has been limited since he first came forward in 1988 and the Archdiocese was not aware of allegations against Hanser before 1988. (12170)
- 4/19/02 Statement of the Archdiocese--It received allegations against Hanser in 1988 and he was then placed on administrative leave. However, Hanser's therapist assured the Archdiocese there was no risk to placing him in hospital ministry with certain restrictions, so he began that in 1991. The hospital administrator was notified and Sklba has personally checked up on Hanser a number of times since he began working at the hospital. Hanser will retire on May 6, 2002. (40227)
- 4/22/02 Letter from a concerned mother worried that her son may have been abused by Hanser in 1982-1984, although her son has to this day denied any abuse. (11662-11663)
- 4/24/02 Sexual abuse intake report alleging abuse of an 11 year old boy by Hanser at St. John Vianney in approximately 1972 (123905)
- 4/30/02 Reinke memo--Spoke with the sister of the brother who reported in July 1988, who recently went to the newspaper with the story of abuse by Hanser. She wanted to know if others came forward as a result of the news story and Reinke told her that two others from the 1970s had come forward. (57503)
- 5/1/02 Sexual abuse intake report by parents alleging abuse of their sons by Hanser in the mid-1980s. They heard rumors about Hanser suddenly leaving in 1988. They confronted Hanser, but Hanser initially denied the abuse.
- 5/4/02 Sexual abuse intake report from a family alleging abuse of four brothers by Hanser in the late 1960s. Revised report was sent to the District Attorney in 6/02.
- 5/6/02 - Retires
- 7/29/02 Vicar Log Entry No. 539. Sklba met with the mother that wrote him on 4/22/02 to tell him that in 1983 she told Fr. Leonard Barbian about an advance she suspected that Hanser made toward her 7th grade son and requested that some note

of concern be placed in the hands or file of Hanser. Her son continues to insist that nothing occurred at any time with Hanser. (11740)

- 8/20/02 Memo from Reinke about her conversation with a woman who called seeking financial assistance for her husband (one of the brothers who reported in July 1988) who according to Sklba may have had homosexual relationship with Hanser for many years. Her husband is drinking heavily and it is recommended that she take him to the hospital for treatment, but she is worried about the cost. Reinke advised her to proceed with the hospital treatment and Sklba authorizes payment by the Archdiocese.
- 1/10/03 Letter from Waukesha County District Attorney to Barbara Cusack saying he is closing the investigation into Hanser because he cannot proceed because of the statute of limitations. He writes that he wishes he could hold Hanser criminally responsible because there is no doubt in his mind that Hanser assaulted the boys. Also thanks the Archdiocese for the very professional manner in which it handles these cases, as well as its sensitivity in these matters. (40214)
- 5/17/04 Letter and attachments from Dolan to Cardinal Ratzinger with the CDF requesting that Hanser be dismissed from the clerical state. (12240-12245) Includes a summary of Hanser's file with his assignment history, list of accusations against him from 11 victims, measures adopted by the Archdiocese, and the investigation process. Includes mention of a note that was found in 1989 in a locked cabinet regarding a 1975 complaint about sexual improprieties by Hanser toward children. (40215-40216)
- 2/17/05 Letter from J. Michael Ritty to Dolan saying that he has been appointed Hanser's canonical advocate and procurator. (12257)
- 2/18/05 Letter from Ritty to Ratzinger stating that Hanser is retired with restricted faculties, the "incidents allegedly occurred a number of years ago," and Hanser wants to remain a priest because he is concerned about his health benefits. He also states that he has asked the Archdiocese to review Hanser's file and wants time to prepare a defense to the Archdiocese's request for Hanser's laicization. (012256)
- 3/5/05 Letter from Dolan to Ratzinger stating that Ritty has been given incorrect information by Hanser who told Ritty that he does not know the substance of the allegations against him. Hanser has been informed of the allegations numerous times and that Hanser admitted to some of the abuse. (12260)
- 9/30/05 Unofficial transcript from CDF documenting Pope Benedict XVI's approval of Hanser's dismissal from the clerical state. (12017-12018) The official Latin decree, which is signed by Hanser, is also referenced in the 10/27/05 CDF letter. (39714-39718)

9/30/05 – Laicized

- 10/17/06 Sexual abuse intake report alleging abuse of 7 or 8 year old boy by Hanser in 1977 at St. John Vianney. (123905)
- 3/25/10 Letter from victim of abuse by Hanser to ListECKI alleging abuse by Hanser in the 1960s when he was 11 or 12 years old and requesting a quiet settlement for \$250,000. (33395)
- 4/15/10 ListECKI encourages the survivor who wrote to him on 3/25/10 to contact the Archdiocese's Victim Assistant Coordinator. (33387)
- Undated Restrictions and Conditions of Ministry for Rev. David Hanser. Changes his restrictions to state "You may provide pastoral care to minors within the hospital setting provided there is no one else available to do so and you have first attempted to provide alternative coverage." "Within the hospital setting, you will refrain from being alone with minors except for the Sacrament of Penance." Also not allowed to be alone with a minor in an altered state of consciousness, including those sleeping or under sedation; not allowed to have more than 2 pastoral visits with any 1 minor; and not allowed to continue relationships with minors after they leave the hospital. Notes that any sexual misconduct with minors in the limited hospital setting allowed will be reported to civil authorities. (11649-11650)
- Undated Chronology of Hanser notes allegations dating back to 1988 and ends with notes from 2002. (11741-11742)