

## Father Tom Gillespie, OSB Timeline

July 24, 1937 – Born, William Raymond Gillespie, Minneapolis, Minnesota

April 22, 1958            Cautionary review of Gillespie says he’s “soft” and his family of origin catered too much to his desires as a child. (OSB GILLESPIE\_00014)

May 30, 1964 – Ordained

1964 – Assistant Pastor, St. Bernard’s, St. Paul, Minnesota

August 1966 – Assistant Vocations Director, St. John’s Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota

August 1968 – English Teacher, San Antonio Abad Monastery, Humacau, Puerto Rico

August 28, 1968            Gillespie goes on vacation in Puerto Rico. While in Puerto Rico he is told he is being transferred to a small parish in northern Minnesota. He had not heard of a transfer before that. The next morning “Fr. Eric” came to his room and asked if he would like to stay in Puerto Rico permanently. The Abbot granted Gillespie permission to stay in Puerto Rico via phone call from Puerto Rico. Gillespie returned to St. John’s to pack his things and then flew back to Puerto Rico in September for his permanent assignment. (OSB GILLESPIE\_00048-00049)

May 29, 1975 – Assistant Pastor, St. Boniface, Cold Spring, Minnesota

October 1975            Gillespie spends a month in the psychiatric unit at St. Cloud hospital. No explanation why but writes two years later that he was “pretty sick at the time.” (OSB GILLESPIE\_00067)

May 1, 1976            Gillespie refuses to stay at St. Boniface in Cold Spring if Father Brennan is assigned there so the Abbot tells Gillespie he will send him to St. Bernard’s in St. Paul. (OSB GILLESPIE\_00060)

August 3, 1976 – Assistant Pastor, St. Bernard’s, St. Paul, Minnesota

July 1977            Gillespie asks the Abbot to remove him from St. Bernard’s (OSB GILLESPIE\_00067)

1978 – Pastor, St. Mary’s, Stillwater, Minnesota

**1978            Gillespie abuses a boy from St. Mary’s who will later sue in 1996**

1986 – Pastor, St. Joseph’s, St. Joseph, Minnesota

1996            St. John’s sued by man who was abused by Gillespie in 1978

February 23, 1996        Abbot Kelly learns of allegations that Gillespie abused a 14-year-old boy 18 years earlier. He pulls Gillespie out of St. Joseph’s but does not tell parishioners why. (OSB GILLESPIE\_00203-00204)

- February 24, 1996 Abbot Kelly informs parishioners that Gillespie is being recalled to St. John's to deal with "some health problems." Asks parishioners to pray for Gillespie. (OSB GILLESPIE\_00130)
- April 1, 1996 Gillespie admitted to St. Luke Institute in Maryland for treatment. (OSB GILLESPIE\_00131)
- April 24, 1996 Abbot Tim Kelly writes to Gillespie at St. Luke's that he let the community know Father Brennan was going to St. Luke's for a "gambling addiction" at his request. Says he hasn't made any public statement about Gillespie or his whereabouts yet and is waiting for Gillespie's decision on whether to do so. (OSB GILLESPIE\_00133-00134)
- April 28, 1996 Gillespie says his future is too uncertain but he realizes it is "all [his] fault." Says, "I'm not going to blame my parents or anyone else." He also says he is looking forward to taking long walks off campus at St. Luke's on weekends once he's off "restriction." (OSB GILLESPIE\_00136)
- June 11, 2002 Gillespie tells Abbot Klassen, "I am responsible for what happened and I deeply regret the grief and sorrow I have caused so many people, including you and the community." (OSB GILLESPIE\_00158)
- November, 2003 Various priests from Gillespie's support group write to Abbot Klassen supporting Gillespie's request to take a trip to Rome for "renewal." Father Jim Reichert emails Abbot Klassen supporting Gillespie's request and says he and Gillespie were close friends when Gillespie's "sexual addiction" surfaced in 1996, but that he's doing well. (OSB GILLESPIE\_00170) Geoffrey Fecht, OSB writes to Abbot Klassen saying that Gillespie was scheduled to take a retreat in Belgium in 1996 just before the allegations came out and that he should be able to go now. (OSB GILLESPIE\_00173) Dan Ward, OSB writes that he has "worked with many people who have sexually abused minors," and he thinks Gillespie should be able to go to Rome. (OSB GILLESPIE\_00175-00176)
- December 10, 2003 Gillespie tells Abbot Klassen he wants to talk with him about the Review Board because he has some "real misgivings" about some of the people on it. (OSB GILLESPIE\_00179)
- December 17, 2003 Notes from Klassen meeting with Gillespie telling him he cannot take the Rome trip say that Gillespie was "pissed," and that he wants to know what the complication is. (OSB GILLESPIE\_00180-00181)
- April 2006 Gillespie goes to Rome for renewal trip.
- February 25, 2013 St. John's student complains that Gillespie is sending him emails and coming to his choir concerts. Abbot sends him a letter to stop because

Gillespie “can see how sensitive this student is.” (OSB  
GILLESPIE\_00196-00197)