

## Rev. Francis Hoefgen, OSB Timeline

- Aug 29, 1950                      Born
- April 6, 1972                      College friend writes Hoefgen a letter of recommendation for priesthood that says when he met Fran, Fran was “an individual who needed love as a means to security and happiness, and forced friendships to obtain this...” The friend also notes that his one concern about recommending Fran is that he thinks his overbearing mother is the reason Fran chose the priesthood. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00011)
- 1973                                  Hoefgen’s personal account to St. John’s includes money paid for “psychology.” (OSB HOEFGEN\_00018)
- Dec, 1974                              James Wilde, OSB of St. John’s theology department writes to Abbot Eidschink that after having Hoefgen in class he believes “Francis has significant unconscious and conscious emotional conflicts, and I recommend that he be encouraged to receive some professional personal academic or psychological counseling.” Wilde writes that Hoefgen “seriously need[s] personal attention from trustworthy adults.” (OSB HOEFGEN\_00031) Fr. Joseph Charron, director of the seminary’s first-year program also wrote to the Abbot that Dan Ward and James Wilde, both on staff, had reservations about Hoefgen’s participation in the program. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00033)
- April 15, 1975                      Cletus Connors, OSB, Assistant Prior, writes that Hoefgen has dual personalities. Warm and friendly at times, and moody and unapproachable at other times. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00039)
- 1978                                      In 2011 a man claims Hoefgen sexually abused him 12-24 times when he was a teen living in Cold Spring in 1978. The man says the abuse happened when Hoefgen was counseling him after suicide attempts.
- Jan 9, 1978                              Michael Naughton, OSB, Director of Pastoral Formation gives another cautionary recommendation for Hoefgen to be ordained. “Frankly, I believe it would do [Hoefgen] well to spend his deacon internship away from the Abbey, so that he can learn to deal and cope with problems other than internecine struggles.” (OSB HOEFGEN\_00063)
- June 22, 1979                              Ordained
- July 17, 1979 St. Boniface, Cold Spring – Assistant Pastor
- NO DOCS BETWEEN 1979 AND 1984
- March 23,, 1984                      Rev. Michael Peterson, MD of St. Luke Institute writes to Police Chief, Vincent Konz regarding Hoefgen. Apologizes for recommending that Hoefgen be sent to Maryland for a psych evaluation at St. Luke’s while he

was being criminally investigated for sexually abusing a minor in the rectory in Cold Spring. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00083-00084)

- April 1984 St. Luke Institute Psychological Report Hoefgen. Rev. Michael Peterson states in the report that “the lifestyle and contributions of Father Hoefgen to the Cold Spring Community over the years have been exemplary.” No problem at all with Hoefgen – “I hope that this psychiatric evaluation will be helpful to you, Abbot Jerome, in your care of this very fine young monk. **A copy of this report has been sent to Mr. Daniel Eller, attorney for Father Hoefgen.**” (OSB HOEFGEN\_00086-00088)
- July 1984 Rev. Michael Peterson, MD writes to Abbot Jerome (not Hoefgen’s attorney) that Hoefgen “is indeed beginning to experience the painfulness of the psychotherapeutic and growth process.” (OSB HOEFGEN\_00089)
- August 1984 Abbot Jerome writes to Hoefgen that “It is apparent that you are dealing with some basic issues in your life. I am happy that you have this opportunity to delve into your psychic life and come up with some resolutions. **I am sure it will take a good deal of time to sort out the various dynamics in your life. Thank you for your letter and the frankness with which you spoke about the issues!**” (OSB HOEFGEN\_00090)
- August 27, 1984 Rev. Michael Peterson, MD writes to Hoefgen’s attorney, Dan Eller that Hoefgen can safely return to St. John’s. “The two sexual instances which are documented with the same person could best be described **as two very needy people who reached out to each other and with some mutuality on both sides.**” (OSB HOEFGEN\_00092)
- Sept 10, 1984 Hoefgen writes to Abbot Theisen from St. Luke’s that he has “discovered a great deal about why I do what I do as well as what my needs are and how to meet them in an appropriate way.” (OSB HOEFGEN\_00093)
- 1985 “Goals for Sexual Perpetrator” from University of Minnesota’s Program in Human Sexuality (OSB HOEFGEN\_00094-00095)
- April 15, 1985 Hoefgen writes to the Abbot that he does not want to go to Hastings because he cannot communicate with the priest there, and he is worried that he will look “outside his community” for emotional support if he goes there. Doesn’t want to go to Hastings because it will hurt his psychological health and healing. Abbot sends Hoefgen to Hastings. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00100-00101)

NO DOCUMENTS FROM APRIL 1985-MARCH 1988

- May 1988 Hoefgen writes to Abbot Jerome that he wants to make a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. He says he can take a vacation from the parish in Hastings without telling people where he is going. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00105)
- June 1988 Hoefgen writes again asking to go to Medjugorje. Says “as you know, that past nine years of my priesthood has been no picnic. I accept responsibility for the areas where I have failed and brought hardship to you personally and I too thank God for the outcome that has resulted. As you recall I did accept your decision to go to Hastings three years ago.” (OSB HOEFGEN\_00106)
- May 24, 1990 Hoefgen to Abbot – “I know I have been a burden to the Abbey in the past and I regret that very much.” (OSB HOEFGEN\_00115)
- October 1990 Hoefgen travels with a group of parishioners to Medjugorje with Abbot Jerome’s permission. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00113, 00114)
- October 1992 Hoefgen, St. John’s and Diocese of St. Cloud sued by man Hoefgen sexually abused in Cold Spring in 1982. Hoefgen is pulled out of Hastings by Abbot Timothy Kelly. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00131, 00133, 00134)
- December 1992 Hoefgen’s brother, Fr. Ray Hoefgen of St. Charles Borromeo asks Abbot Kelly if Fr. Fran can fill in for him for two weeks while Ray goes to Servants of the Paraclete in Missouri for his aftercare program. Kelly gives approval, writes to Bishop James Garland of the Diocese of Marquette. Garland approves of Hoefgen filling in. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00140, 00141, 00142)
- February 1993 Sister of Plaintiff writes to Abbot Kelly about her experience with Hoefgen and her brother who he abused. Never heard of the abuse until the lawsuit, never knew why Hoefgen left Cold Spring overnight without anyone being told why. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00144-00146)
- October 1993 Rev. Kevin McDonough writes to Sr. Chabanel Mathison, OSU that Archbishop Roach has granted Hoefgen permission to participate in a retreat in the Archdiocese. McDonough asks Sr. Chabanel to (“exercise good judgment in your promotional materials” that will be “widely distributed” in Archdiocese parishes.) Says he is being “deliberately vague” but doesn’t want to bring press attention or “shame” Hoefgen. Sr. Chabanel sends McDonough copies of general advertising for review. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00154, 00155, 00156)
- Nov 23, 1993 Civil claim against Hoefgen, St. John’s and St. Cloud dismissed on statute of limitations. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00157-00170)

- March 1994 Hoefgen's job description as Supervisor of the St. John's University Information Center includes: "Interview, employ, train and evaluate student employees..." (OSB HOEFGEN\_00174-00175)
- April 1994 Sister of Hoefgen survivor who sued writes to Hoefgen personally asking to meet with him face to face. Says Abbey's response shows they don't care about the victims as long as they protect their money. Sondra Lawrence, M.S., L.P. also writes to Hoefgen saying the woman needs to meet with him to heal. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00176, 00177)
- April 27, 1994 Abbot Timothy Kelly forbids Hoefgen from meeting with the sister of Hoefgen's victim unless he has a "counsellor who can serve to protect you." Abbot writes, "**I have no particular desire to be a part of that meeting since I have no particular desire to be battered either.**" (OSB HOEFGEN\_00178)
- October 1995 Hoefgen reports to Abbot Timothy Kelly that he had a sexual encounter with a St. John's student in the student's dorm room. Hoefgen went to the student's room with him after being at the gym to give him a massage. Hoefgen masturbated the student in the dorm room. The Abbot tells Hoefgen not to get "too close to any one attractive person over a period of time." Abbot Kelly later has Hoefgen bring the student with him to his office to meet. Hoefgen is in the room the whole time. The student is quiet during the meeting. The Abbot writes in a memo about the meeting, "When I asked him how the meeting we were having struck him he said he felt it was somewhat weird, **and I understand him to mean that he saw no big deal in what happened and he really does not understand why we are making a big deal of it.**" (OSB HOEFGEN\_00193-00195)
- June 12, 2002 Abbot John Klassen informs Hoefgen people are asking about the status of pedophiles on restriction at St. John's. Tells Hoefgen he needs to let someone know when he travels, and that **while specific entities that asked about safety are visiting on campus (National Catholic Youth Choir, Youth in Theology in Ministry), he should stay away from kids.** (OSB HOEFGEN\_00221-00222)
- July 2, 2002 Concerned Catholic writes to Abbot Klassen about St. John's misstatements in news stories, and her concern that Hoefgen gave the 17 year old boy he abused absolution afterward indicating it was somehow the boy's fault. Also points out under Canon law this alone requires Hoefgen be excommunicated. Klassen responds that she is correct but Hoefgen has been removed from all priestly ministry. Fr. Skudlarek, who made the comments about Hoefgen still being a priest in the paper, did not know the whole story when he made them. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00223-00224, 00230)

- Dec 26, 2002 Hoefgen informs Abbot Klassen he's getting help with placement for a three month volunteer trip to Africa. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00261)
- Jan 23, 2003 Abbot Klassen writes a letter of recommendation for Hoefgen's application for the volunteer trip to Africa. He does disclose the 1983 abuse but not the incident with the student in the 90s. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00275-00276)
- Oct 4, 2003 Hoefgen granted one year of exclaustation and goes to Africa. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00292, 00294)
- Oct 2004 Abbot John Klassen's notes from a meeting indicate that Klassen "doubts Fran would come to a meeting with Project Pathfinders." Pathfinders is a group that puts together safety plans for offending monks. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00323)
- Dec 2004 Hoefgen granted another two years of exclaustation and given \$28,600 by St. John's (OSB HOEFGEN\_00328-00329)
- March/April, 2004 Hoefgen moves to Minneapolis. Tom Green, Administrator at the Basilica of St. Mary's in Minneapolis tells Abbot Klassen he's concerned about Hoefgen working there around kids. Says he needs a risk assessment. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00343-00344, 00347)
- Dec 2005 – Jan 2007 Hoefgen works at Washburn McReavy Funeral Homes. During his time there he offers to perform wake services. In January 2007 Hoefgen tells Cardinal Franc Rode that part of his job duties include providing "spiritual comfort" to grieving people. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00353-00356, 00364)
- March 2007 Rome grants Hoefgen three additional years of exclaustation to decide if he wants to remain a monk. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00368)
- April/May 2011 St. John's settles the claim by the man who was sexually abused by Hoefgen in 1978 when he was a teen and Hoefgen was counseling him after a suicide attempt. After the settlement Abbot John Klassen asks Hoefgen to ask Rome for a dispensation. Abbot Klassen offers to give Hoefgen a "gift" of \$30,000 if he leaves to cover healthcare costs. Says he will make it a "gift" so it will be tax free. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00399-00400)
- August 2011 Klassen requests full dispensation from the priesthood for Hoefgen. "I see no potential scandal occurring if Fran's petition is granted, whereas such may be the case if other accusations of misconduct surface while he is still a monk and priest of the Abbey. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00414-00416)
- Dec 16, 2011 Pope Benedict grants Hoefgen's dispensation from the priesthood, effective January 26, 2012. (OSB HOEFGEN\_00423)