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Official Statements from Saint John's Abbey

Statement on Father Francisco Schulte

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"We, the monks of Saint John's Abbey, a community of Catholic Benedictine men, seek God through a common life of prayer, study, and work, giving witness to Christ and the Gospel, in service to the church and the world"

--Mission Statement, 2007.

In February of 1992, Abbot Jerome Theisen received an allegation of inappropriate sexual behavior with a minor in 1984 by Father Francisco Schulte. From that time through June of 2002, Father Francisco was living at Saint John's Abbey with "prudent, non-risk" limitations on his ministry.

In June of 2003, Father Francisco Schulte took a three-year canonical leave (exclaustration) from Saint John's Abbey for the purpose of vocational discernment. Taking such a leave means that the superior of Saint John's Abbey does not have oversight over the monk. After being with his family for a few months, Father Francisco traveled to Rome and lived and worked at Sant' Anselmo (Rome, Italy). His monastic superiors there were apprised of his situation and supervised his work and life.

In 2005-2006, Father Francisco was at the Basilica of Guadalupe (Mexico City, Mexico), translating his dissertation from English into Spanish. He was supervised by the Rector of the Shrine, who was apprised of his situation.

From April 2007 - January 2009, Father Francisco spent a significant amount of time with his family in North Carolina, first to assist in the care of his terminally ill mother, who died on May 2, 2008. His father died on November 25, 2008.

From 2006-2010, Father Francisco has lived at Subiaco Abbey (Italy) for further discernment under the supervision of superiors apprised of his situation. When Saint John's Abbey became aware of a possible lawsuit in April 2010, Abbot John Klassen asked Father Francisco to return to Saint John's Abbey, which he chose to do. Father Francisco was not permitted to perform sacramental ministry as a priest from 2002 to the present.

From 1980-1983 and from 1986-1988, Father Francisco served as chaplain at Saint John's Preparatory School.

Saint John's Abbey returns gift

COLLEGEVILLE, Minn. - On Tuesday, Dec. 15, the monks of Saint John's Abbey voted to return a \$2 million gift from the Thomas J. Petters Family Foundation for construction of the Petters Pavilion and to remove the name. A new name for the facility has not yet been selected.

The abbey is currently in discussions with the Receiver on the terms and conditions of these payments, which should be concluded soon.

Completed in May 2007, the pavilion is a 3,500 square-foot expansion of the Abbey Chapter House. The two-level addition to the east entrance of the Abbey Church provides lobby space, elevator and stairwell access to the Assumption Chapel in the lower church, restrooms, bride's and groom's rooms, storage, and a pedestrian tunnel that now connects the Abbey Guesthouse to the pavilion and church for use during inclement weather. Traditionally used by monks for spiritual conferences and abbey business matters, the chapter house has been equipped with improved acoustics, air-conditioning, and space to accommodate audiences for such programs as the "Sundays at the Abbey" lecture series, and for retreats, workshops, and seminars for both on-campus and off-campus groups.

Designed by the Minneapolis architectural firm Vincent James Associates Architects, both the Abbey Guesthouse and the pavilion have won national and state American Institute of Architects awards in architectural design.

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