

PERSONAL HISTORY SHEET
VILLA LOUIS MARTIN
SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE
JEMEZ SPRINGS, NEW MEXICO 87025

Name: Rev. Siegfried Francis Widera

Date: October 16, 1985

[REDACTED]

Referred to Villa Louis Martin by: Most Rev. William Johnson, D.D.

Date of Birth: December 20, 1940

Place of Birth: Dortmund, Germany

Age: 44

Most Recent Occupation: Associate Pastor

Education (Places & dates):

Grade school:

Grades 1-3
Dortmund, Germany

Grades 4-8
Sacred Heart School
St. Francis, Wisconsin

High school:

Grades 9-13
Minor Seminary as a day student
St. Francis, Wisconsin

College:

Grades 14 through Ordination
St. Francis Major Seminary
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Seminary:

St. Francis Major Seminary
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Degrees:

D. Ministry Candidate

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL
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Other Educational Experiences:

N/A

Date of Final Profession: No

Date of Ordination: 1967

FAMILY

FATHER:

Name: [REDACTED]

His age at the time of your birth: 35

His nationality: German

His religious belief: Roman Catholic

His education: B.S. Engineering (Technical School - Cologne, Germany)

Occupation(s): Head Engineer [REDACTED]

Living?: Yes

Date and cause of death:

MOTHER:

Name: [REDACTED]

Her age at the time of your birth: 31

Her nationality: German

Her religious belief: Roman Catholic

Her education: Finishing School in the Netherlands

Occupation(s): Housewife

Living?: Yes

Date and cause of death:

Describe the relationship between your mother and father:

Will have been married shortly for [REDACTED].
He is the head of the family. My mother likes to be very social. My father wants my mother to be at his side to be near him. Their relationship is good.

She understands him. They know their roles. They seem to have a good relationship or understanding with each other. If opposites attract, it surely applies to my mother and father. He is the provider and she takes care of the home.

Describe your relationship with your father:

The relationship has been more difficult as he grows older. A conversation with my father is one in which he does all the talking and you listen. So, it is better to say nothing and just listen. The last time we talked, he wanted to talk alone with me, but the conversation was the same - one-sided. I admire my father, but I have found it always difficult to speak to him to say what is really on my mind. He loves his children dearly and tries to help them. Although it has been hard to talk, he has been a good provider.

Describe your relationship with your mother:

While my father is difficult to talk with, my mother is the opposite. My mother is people-oriented and has a very open personality. I guess the old saying is true - that opposites attract. She is a good listener before stating what is on her mind. I have been close to my mother and I like being in her presence. We take walks together and talk. We have a good relationship. She has been a good mother to me and maybe that is something that I have not returned as a son and may have taken her for granted and not returned her affection. I have always found it easier to relate to my mother.

Brothers & Sisters (List name, age, & brief comment on the quality of his/her life starting with oldest):

Name: [REDACTED]

Age: [REDACTED]

Comment: [REDACTED]

Name: [REDACTED]

Age: [REDACTED]

Comment: [REDACTED]

Name: [REDACTED]

Age: [REDACTED]

Comment: [REDACTED]

Describe any significant relationships with any of your brothers/sisters:

I get along well with [REDACTED], but my [REDACTED] This stopped when I went to the seminary at the high school level. It is interesting that the children do not get along with each other now. I am the only one that is on speaking terms with all [REDACTED] We do not get together too often and if we do, it is not for very long. I have always wondered what caused this separation. We love each other the greater the distance we are apart. I get along with all [REDACTED] and enjoy their company, just as they enjoy me whenever I am with them.

PRE-SCHOOL YEARS:Describe major events of this period and your feelings about them:

Being born in 1940 in Germany, the war left a deep impression on me. In fact, it was hard for me to see a war movie, even into the high school level.

I remember that I pulled a hot iron on myself and it hit me on the lower side of my chin. I have a scar there still. I was a sickly, skinny child. Also, I was a late talker, they tell me. They almost thought that I would never talk. To this day, I hesitate to talk at first. Kids adapt very easily to change; so it was for me I guess. My feelings on my pre-school years are good, as much as I can recall.

List major medical and physical events:

I was just a skinny kid that tended to be sickly once in a while.

Describe your behavior during this time:

Besides my ability to not talk, I would guess it was normal. I do not remember much. About my behavior, you could probably say I was a good little kid.

What are your impressions of this period of your life:

Normal, if there is such a thing in wartime. I remember the bombed-out city. The basements made great caves and the walls, standing, made towering mountains to climb.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEARS:Describe major events of this period and your feelings about them:

In Germany, I went to school from grades one through four. My father left for a year to work in America. When he returned, all he heard was that the Russians were coming, and so he packed up the family for America (as requested by his company). It was a shock for me to learn that there were people who did not speak German.

We arrived in Milwaukee in the afternoon. Next day, we were in Sacred Heart School, not speaking a word of English in the fourth grade. We learned the language, played games, became altar boys, worked a truck farm in the summertime. I thought I adapted to the change pretty well.

List major medical and physical events:

I do not remember any major events - just the usual normal kids' stuff. Although I remained skinny, I grew stronger.

Describe your behavior during this time:

I adjusted pretty well and got along well with all in school and in the neighborhood. I made friends easily and began to love different sports. I had no major problems. I guess it was pretty normal for me.

What are your impressions of this period of your life:

It was a happy growing-up time, even with its changes from Germany to the U.S.A. I was just enjoying and breathing in life!

HIGH SCHOOL YEARS:

Describe major events of this period and your feelings about them:

In the fifth grade, I had a thought about becoming a priest. This stayed with me on and off. After graduating Sacred Heart Grade School, I entered De Sales Prep (across the street from Sacred Heart) Minor Seminary as a day student. I enjoyed the fellow students. I was at the school a lot because I lived so close. I was interested in sports and worked as an assistant janitor throughout the year at Sacred Heart Church, which was across the street. I had a problem with my weight. In sophomore year, between playing football and basketball, I put on about thirty pounds.

Also, the family moved to a new home in South Milwaukee. In school, I kept about a 'B' average. High school was good.

List major medical and physical events:

Just had a problem with tonsillitis every year, which kept me out of school for a week.

Describe your behavior during this time:

No problems that I can think of. Once in a while I would be moody, which was common to that age bracket. I remember wanting a small motorcycle to make it easier to get to work. My parents said "No" because of the possibility of an accident. That is probably why I have one today.

What are your impressions of this period of your life:

No major impressions, just life itself and living it everyday. I was just like a sponge, taking in life. It felt like the springtime of my life.

ADULT YEARS (AGE 18 TO PRESENT):

Describe major events of this period and your feelings about them:

I finished my college and theology at St. Francis Major Seminary and was ordained in 1967 for Milwaukee. I had all the enthusiasm of a newly ordained priest. After ordination, I traveled for six weeks in Europe: First alone in Rome, in Munich with [REDACTED] and the rest of Europe with my parents. On the trip, we had some beautiful experiences.

I had some odd pastors in my years as a priest. I was stationed in my first assignment for one year. I remember I had an argument with the pastor because I wanted to visit the sick. He had some personal problems. I seemed to get along well with others.

My second place was with a pastor who was an alcoholic. I was there for four years. It was there that my problem surfaced after a while and would stay with me until the present. Although I was liked, it seemed, by everyone, my tendency was to be attracted sexually to boys. It was an attraction that I was not fully aware of at first.

My next assignment was to a pastor who was very autocratic. I was there for a year. I was doing pretty well, when I got to know some boys. It started innocently enough, but after a while a complaint was filed against me and I was arrested. It was public (made the papers) and I was given four years probation. There was a court hearing at which my father wanted to be present. [REDACTED] mentioned on my last visit how the judge asked [REDACTED] and how much it affected [REDACTED]

After a short while, the Milwaukee Archdiocese transferred me to another parish at the other end of the Archdiocese. I was there for about four years. During this time, I visited a psychologist, a Dr. Leo Graham, about weekly, which was supposed to be about an hour. After the probation period, the chancery suggested I go to where some of my relatives lived. [REDACTED] was too close for me, and so, that left [REDACTED]

I decided to go to California where [REDACTED] lived instead of [REDACTED] where my parents resided. To say the least, it was a time of great turmoil for me as well as for my family. I would talk with my father. He was very supportive, but felt badly. I stayed with my [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when I arrived in Southern California. I made contact with the newly founded Diocese of Orange because arrangements had been made by Milwaukee. They assigned me to a parish in Buena Park, two blocks from Knotts Berry Farm. I enjoyed my stay there; it was short. The parish was taken from the diocesan priests and given to religious. It was a good time to get acclimated to California through some good people.

I was transferred to a neighboring parish for four years in Anaheim.

Since my time was up, I was transferred south to one of the most beautiful spots for a church in all the world - Dana Point. But there is no heaven on earth. The pastor had a heart attack in the first months I was there. So, I supposedly ran the parish, but even from his I.C.U. bed, he was in control. I made good friends, especially with a retired man and his wife. I was there almost everyday for a short visit. After three years, I decided I could not survive another year in Dana Point, and so, I asked for a transfer.

I went to the other extreme, from an oceanside parish to a city barrio parish in Santa Ana. It was a culture shock. I was there for a year. I did not have much to do and therefore I would visit the classrooms of school and C.C.D. to keep myself occupied. I got to know a couple altar boys who wanted to be priests (and I believe they probably will).

After the year, I went to Yorba Linda, up in the hills, a new parish without a school. While there, I had promised my former parish altar boy captains a trip. We went to a doctor's swimming pool. This was reported, but I personally believe nothing happened. Then, in my new parish I met a family I knew in my second parish in Anaheim. Being in a new parish and territory, I stopped at their home often. She was divorced for two years. I knew her family for eight years (played golf with [REDACTED]). After a while, I became involved with her three boys. Since they were seeing a counselor about the divorce, one of them mentioned me, and so I was reported. I was suspended by the Bishop and given a room to stay at in the diocesan complex on the advice of an attorney. At the present time, there is no legal ramification, but in the near future there might be a warrant out for my arrest. During this time until I arrived at Villa Louis Martin, I spent a lot of time with a couple who are my intimate friends. He now has bad health and has to stay home. So during this time, he and I spent a lot of time together.

My feelings about all this is: "How could I do this so often, knowing the consequences?" I would suffer, but still....the words of St. Paul: "I do the things I do not want to, and the things I do want to do, I do not do." Why? I feel so terrible. I know better. I know it is not being a stubborn German. Hope there is an answer?

List major medical and physical events:

I had a tonsillectomy during my college years. About four years ago, I had a double hernia operation. I have had problems with hemorrhoids since my seminary days.

Describe your behavior during this time:

My behavior during these years since my eighteenth year has been "on and off," "good and bad," "peaceful and troublesome." Until the end of my second assignment in the priesthood, I did not know nor was aware of any problems. Then, I had some problems. Why this happened, I really do not know. I was trying, but desire was always deeply there. Then would come the deep guilt. I would try to control - I succeeded at times and at other times, I failed.

What are your impressions of this period of your life:

Of the twenty-seven years of my life, there is an impression of good years in the priesthood and of duties well-performed. However, my impression of my personal life is one of being "troubled" - a dark force behind me. It is a search for "personal peace" that was never achieved because of the hounding of the passions.

If not included in the above information, give a history of your sexuality:

I have always thought it was a dream and have never mentioned it before. However, the incident has stayed with me from my early childhood. It took place in a park. I got lost from my mother. A man calls me over. Afterwards, he told me not to mention it to anyone. So, when my mother asked me what I was doing, I told her "nothing." I was very young.

My next sexual activity was with masturbation. I remember asking myself if I should go to the seminary because of it. Once in the seminary, if I should leave because of the problem. I was pretty stupid concerning sex. I remember my father calling us (the three boys) in to talk privately with him. He gave us a talk for a little while about "sex" - that was my introduction to sexuality.

My attraction to boys became manifest in my second assignment, but I never "realized" it until I was arrested in my next assignment. I have never fully accepted the problem. Have I come to terms with my sexuality? No. Why: Was it for affection....gratification?

What have been the major turning points in your life? (Major decisions, events, persons, etc. in which you have changed course in your life):

The major points in my life as I see them now, are a few. First, my moving with the family from Germany to America when I was ten years old. It seems odd, but the boys I am attracted to are about the same age or a little older.

The next major point was to enter the seminary and continue to stay there and be ordained a priest in 1967.

My arrest and probation, with its notoriety, was a big influence in my life as I lived it.

Four years later, my life was changed when I moved to California. It was a cultural shock. I adjusted well, but my problem was with me.

To say the least, another great turning point in my life is my coming and staying at Villa Louis Martin.

About the people who have influenced my life, I would have to say - my family. Because we came from Germany and had no relatives in the U.S.A., my father insisted upon a close-knit family. We more or less closed in upon ourselves. We had friends, but they were not family. The seminary influence was also great.

PRESENT FUNCTIONING:

Describe your relationships with people at this time. (Significant people in your life, confidants, your feelings toward the relationships, etc.)

At the present, the closest friends I have are a couple widowed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I stayed with them this last month. He has had heart problems (serious) and stays home, and she is a [REDACTED] Both are grandparents. I love them dearly and have shared much with them, except my problem - on the advice of the lawyer. They are a beautiful couple.

How do you describe yourself at this time? (What satisfies you, dissatisfies you, your feelings, attitudes, etc.):

At this present time, I would describe myself as being depressed and confused. I am practicing denial of family and friends, or otherwise the depression would be overwhelming. But personally, what I am looking for is a solution to the problem I have. I have to prioritize and this comes first before family and friends at this time.

What are your assets/talents/capabilities/strengths?

It seems that my talents are that I relate easily, but superficially, with people. I am, it seems, easy to approach. Also, I will try anything once - well, almost anything. Usually, I am open to people. I like different sports. Most of the time, however, I am like an "Indian" who appreciates the "chiefs" (the talents) of other people.

What are your weaknesses?

My weakness seems my inability in most instances of entering into a deep relationship. My other weakness is my sexuality. In looking at these, I wonder if they are not related - the one helping the other out in keeping me weak.

One of the problems I have is that in dealing with other people's weaknesses, I see my weaknesses so glaringly.

Underline any of the below that apply to you at this time:

betrayed	<u>capable</u>
<u>disturbed</u>	peaceful
scrupulous	<u>problems with sex</u>
<u>alive</u>	<u>helpless</u>
<u>accepted</u>	angry
overly suspicious	<u>fearful</u>
good	<u>depressed</u>

energetic	high
fussy	<u>obsessive thoughts</u>
<u>scared</u>	empathetic
fascinated	<u>trapped</u>
<u>seek information</u>	unfriendly
weight loss	<u>weight gain</u>
unique	<u>skeptical</u>
<u>Inferior</u>	<u>ambivalent</u>
<u>pleasant</u>	obsessed
<u>miserable</u>	<u>rejected</u>
<u>abandoned</u>	free
delighted	excited
<u>excessive sweating</u>	<u>exhausted</u>
<u>alienated</u>	helpful
<u>understood</u>	<u>Inadequate</u>
<u>hard to concentrate</u>	tramors
<u>defeated</u>	disbelief in God
<u>foolish</u>	glad
frantic	<u>afraid</u>
<u>anxious</u>	unable to relax
tranquil	flexible
mystical	humorous
<u>lonely</u>	<u>thoughts of death/suicide</u>
change mind often	impulsive
<u>degraded</u>	<u>lonely</u>
hostile	<u>hurt</u>
<u>vulnerable</u>	pleased

<u>empty</u>	confident
violent	<u>hated</u>
contented	determined
<u>disoriented</u>	<u>panicky</u>
<u>vocation conflict</u>	give information freely
pressured	rebellious
destructive	brave
unpredictable	uncontrolled outbursts
generous	<u>distracted</u>
<u>bitter</u>	calm
<u>angry</u>	authority conflicts
driven	shy
solemn	rewarded
vivacious	spiteful
adequate	apathetic
<u>guilty</u>	vital
<u>seek advice</u>	Inappropriate laughter
<u>confused</u>	memory loss
<u>trusting</u>	<u>tense</u>
affectionate	annoyed
ecstatic	<u>hopeless</u>
<u>sympathetic</u>	spontaneous
<u>crisis of faith</u>	<u>spiritual problems</u>
compulsion to do certain things	<u>threatened</u>
kind	jealous
childish	cheerful
proud	<u>confused</u>

headaches	palpitations
<u>trouble falling asleep</u>	<u>early morning awakening</u>
outraged	clever
<u>condemned</u>	honored
trusted	<u>sad</u>
envious	committed
joyous	relaxed
<u>depressed</u>	<u>unstable</u>
violent	<u>identity crisis</u>
<u>persecuted</u>	<u>cooperative</u>
<u>embarrassed</u>	<u>frustrated</u>
<u>aware</u>	wonderful
loving	bored
<u>intimidated</u>	deceitful
<u>tired</u>	personality change
drink more than just socially	use drugs
inspired	impotent
Involved	<u>anxious</u>
experiencing dizziness	<u>stomach trouble</u>
<u>Indecisive</u>	eager to please
<u>changed value system</u>	fear of dying
fear of losing mind	fear of cancer, etc.
lazy	gullible
happy	worthwhile
unloved	afraid of people
change mind often	selfish
perfectionistic	hard/unable to make friends

dramatic	<u>friendly</u>
bowel troubles	fitful sleep
<u>hate to get up</u>	strange sensations
poor/no/excessive appetite	nightmares
<u>restless</u>	dishonest
frequent job changes	fainting spells
take sleeping pills	forgetful
Ignored	gentle
unique	<u>distracted</u>
unable to have a good time	<u>feel inferior</u>
<u>worried</u>	<u>feel inadequate</u>
hard to deny self	poor living conditions
alcoholic	don't like weekends/vacations
find praying meaningless	<u>fear of hurting others' feelings</u>
quick to anger	financial problems
blackouts	can't sit still
not living up to religious obligations	

Give a history of any psychiatric/psychological treatments.

After my arrest in Milwaukee and trial, for four years or less I visited Dr. Leo Graham on a weekly basis or less. He is a psychologist. More or less - "What is happening?" I did take psychological testing as part of the Dwyer Program and the Doctor of Ministry Program (which I have not completed).

Why have you come to Villa Louis Martin?

Bishop William Johnson of Orange discussed different possibilities with me. He gave me three alternatives: 1) Psychiatric help in the form of Villa Louis Martin; 2) A monastery; 3) Laicization.

I thought about it - I probably could use all three. Even if I left the priesthood, I needed help to put my head on right. I kept asking myself: "What is making me do this? Why do I have this desire? How can I stop? How can I change? I need help!" I thought about going to the Trappist Monastery in Ogden, Utah, in order to think things out and to give me some space. Although I could benefit spiritually from a stay at a monastery, I needed more.

Before coming to Villa Louis Martin, I knew absolutely nothing about it. I did not know what to expect. My decision to come here was to seek help and afterwards to make a decision of where life is taking me.

What is your view of the future? (Include ambitions, desired work assignments, feelings).

I do not know what to expect! I think I need time to have some space. Part of my future is out of my control. If I remain in the priesthood, it would depend on the Bishop about what assignment I receive. I do not believe that I will have a choice - besides accepting or not. If I opt for the lay state, I do not know what I am qualified for. So, for the present I am taking it day by day. God's hand will have to hold me and guide me.

Any further information or feelings that you wish to share about yourself?

I have lived almost forty-five years. In general, I would say that I have performed well as a priest. I functioned well. But it is my personal life that has destroyed almost all the work that I have accomplished. There comes the feeling of why go on if I keep destroying what I have done well in, by my personal life. I have wondered if forty-five years is enough. That is why I feel that it is good for me to be here at Villa Louis Martin - to try to get some sense into my life, wherever life is taking me in this conflict, and that I might truly learn the responsibility for this life - that there is hope.