Father Sylvester Brown was born on September 7, 1930 in Mankato, Minnesota. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Winona on May 31, 1956. Fr. Brown served at the following parishes throughout his tenure:

- August 16, 1956 - Saint Mary School, Owatonna, MN
- August 22, 1961 - State School, Owatonna, MN
- June 17, 1963 - Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, Winona, MN
- June 17, 1963 - Saint Mary College, Winona, MN
- June 8, 1966 - Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, Winona, MN
- August 14, 1969 - Saint Mary College, Winona, MN
- July 1, 1971 - Saint Martin in Woodstock, Saint Mary, Lake Wilson, MN
- July 11, 1974 - Saints Peter and Paul, Blue Earth, MN and Our Lady of Mercy, Guckeen, MN
- July 7, 1981 - Pax Christi, Rochester, MN
- June 30, 1989 - Immaculate Conception, Saint Clair, MN
- November 1, 1989 - Saint Ann, Janesville, MN
- November 18, 1992 - Saint Ann, Janesville, MN and Saint Clair, MN
- June 28, 1995 - Saint Ann, Janesville, MN
- July 1, 2000 - Saint Ann, Janesville, MN
- December 31, 2007 - Saint Ann, Janesville, MN and Saint Joseph, Waldorf, MN

Fr. Brown died on January 6, 2010. Fr. Brown has had multiple accusations of child sexual abuse. Fr. Brown was accused on one occasion of having a minor male expose his genitals to Fr. Brown on the pretext of satisfying the boys concerns about whether he had healthy anatomy. He was also accused of a similar offense involving an adult male wherein he asked the man in question to expose himself after the young man sought sexual advice. These incidents occurred in 1983 and 1984. Fr. Brown denied any sexual activity or intent when these issues were brought to light in approximately 1985. In 1992, similar accusations were made that Father Brown had engaged in having adult male seminarians expose their genitals under false pretenses in 1963-1971. In 2003, an individual came forward who stated that in 1968 Fr. Brown had asked him to expose himself, when he was a minor, under pretext of discussing sexuality. In December of 2013 two other individuals came forward who reported that Fr. Brown had sexually abused them when they were minors.