

## Priest no longer in Clerical State

News of the Diocese November 17, 2014

The Holy See has notified the Diocese of Cleveland that Patrick J. O'Connor was granted a dispensation from the clerical state.

In response to credible accusations of sexual misconduct involving a minor, Patrick J. O'Connor was removed from active ministry in 2008. Subsequently, Patrick J. O'Connor requested a dispensation from the Clerical state (once known as laicization) for the good of the Church. Dispensation from the clerical state means that in accord with canon law, Patrick J. O'Connor is unable to function in any capacity as a priest anywhere, with the exception of offering absolution to those in danger of death.

The Diocese of Cleveland continues its commitment to protecting children and helping to heal victims of abuse. We are deeply sorry for the pain suffered by survivors of abuse due to the action of some members of the clergy, especially as protecting children is so important.