

November 21, 2002

Dear Friends,

I want to express my sincere sorrow for my past failures in my ministry as a priest.

Over two decades ago, I fell in love with a young woman who was legally a minor. I had the intentions of leaving the priesthood and marrying her. I was unable to make the decision to leave the priesthood, and the relationship ended. But my involvement has remained a part of my human failure in my past that now affects the future of my life and your future as parishioners of St. Peter Church.

Because of these failures, I will no longer be able to be your pastor, and I deeply regret this. I ask for your forgiveness and your prayers. I am sorry, especially, that this will hurt and cause scandal to many of you. Please remember that it is not the individual priest that should influence your faith or your commitment to the Church. We are all fallible people, and our failures often cause tremendous amount of harm. I sincerely regret the harm that I have caused to my family, my friends, and the people I have served.

I do hope that I have done some positive things in the lives of people, and they will judge me for the good things I have done, rather than my failures.

I will miss you. I ask for your forgiveness and ask you to pray for me.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jim". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Fr. Jim Haller