



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

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News

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Columbus Bishop removes priest from all ministry

COLUMBUS – Following a diocesan investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor in 1985 and upon recommendation by the Diocesan Board of Review for the Protection of Children, the Most Reverend Fredrick F. Campbell, Bishop of Columbus, has removed Father Frederick A. Loyd from all ministry in the Catholic Church.

This action and announcement are made in accordance with the Catholic Church's *Charter and Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the Diocese's published *Policies for Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Minors and Response to Allegations Thereof*.

An accusation of sexual abuse of a minor alleged to have occurred in Newark, Ohio, in 1985, and naming Fr. Loyd was reported to the Chancery Office on November 3, 2008. The allegation was promptly reported to the Newark Police Department, the diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, and the Review Board.

On November 5, 2008, Fr. Loyd was formally notified by Bishop Campbell of this allegation and the steps the Church would follow as a result of the allegation. On that same date Bishop Campbell issued a decree that Father Loyd must refrain from all public ministry while a preliminary investigation of the allegation was conducted. The Review Board met on December 10, 2008, and concluded that the allegation is credible. Bishop Campbell accepted this finding and accordingly has issued a decree removing Fr. Loyd from ministry in the Church. A finding

of credibility is not proof of guilt in this case, but the Diocese of Columbus is considering the judicial and administrative options in order to remove Fr. Loyd permanently from ministry.

This is the first time the Diocese of Columbus has received a specific allegation of this nature against Father Loyd and initiated the procedures required under the Charter and Norms. In the near future, outreach efforts will be conducted in those places where Fr. Loyd served in order to determine if other persons wish to come forward and seek help.

Fr. Loyd has not held an assignment in the Diocese of Columbus since 2004, and he retired from active ministry in 2006. Fr. Loyd has been a priest of the Diocese of Columbus since 1970. His assignments have included: Associate Pastor, St. Catharine Church, Columbus (1970-1974); Teacher, Bishop Hartley High School, Columbus (1970-1974); Assistant Pastor, St. Augustine Church, Columbus (1974-1975); Teacher, St. Francis DeSales High School, Columbus (1974-1975); Assistant Pastor, St. Agnes Church, Columbus (1975-1977); Part-time Counselor, Talbot Hall at the former St. Anthony Hospital, Columbus (1975-1978); In Residence, Corpus Christi Church, Columbus (1977-1978); Chaplain with residence, St. Anthony Hospital, Columbus (1978-1983); Associate Pastor, St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark, Ohio (1983-1987); Associate Pastor, St. Anthony Church, Columbus (1987-1989); Pastor, St. Stephen the Martyr Church, Columbus (1989-1995); Sabbatical studies (1995-1996); Associate Pastor, St. Joan of Arc, Powell, Ohio (1996-1997); Leave of absence (1997-1998); Chaplain, Doctors Hospital North, Columbus (1998-2001); Residence at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Columbus (1998-2000); Chaplain, Children's Hospital, Columbus (1998); Chaplain, Mount Carmel East Hospital, Columbus (1999-2001); Residence, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus (2000-2001); Associate Pastor, St. Mary, Delaware (2001); Associate Pastor, St. Joseph Cathedral (2002-2004).

The Diocese of Columbus encourages anyone who may have experienced sexual abuse by clergy or others associated with the Church to contact the diocesan Victim's Assistance Coordinator (614-224-2251) and to notify civil authorities. Forms for reporting abuse are available in Catholic parish and school offices and can be accessed from the diocesan website (www.coldsdioc.org).