



DIOCESE OF GARY

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April 16, 2010

Bishop of Gary

Dear Parishioners of Queen of All Saints Parish:

It is my very sad and difficult responsibility to share with you the very serious and disappointing news that I have placed your pastor, Father Terrence Chase, on administrative leave, effective Thursday, April 15, 2010.

A few weeks ago, a person stepped forward with an allegation of sexual misconduct by Father Chase some 19 years ago. The alleged sexual misconduct with a minor took place in approximately 1991 while Father Terrence Chase was pastoral associate at St. Patrick Parish in Chesterton. It was important for us to follow the Policy of the Diocese of Gary: "Sexual Misconduct Toward Minors and Others at Risk." The law enforcement agency was notified and the Bishop's Delegate for Sexual Misconduct called together the Diocesan Response Team to investigate the allegation to try to determine whether it appears to be credible. I was informed earlier this week that the members of the Response Team have concluded that the allegation does not appear to be manifestly frivolous and appears to have merit.

Even though Father Chase denies the allegation, and the Response Team's conclusion is not a finding of guilt, our policies require me to place Father Chase on administrative leave. In accordance with our policy, I have asked Father Chase, and he has agreed, to undergo a complete psychological and medical assessment.

What happens from here? I have asked Father Kevin Huber to serve as administrator of Queen of All Saints Parish. I expect that he will move into the parish next Tuesday, April 20th. While there are some instances where he has prior commitments, he will generally be available to serve your needs beginning next Tuesday. At the same time, at least for now, he will continue with his responsibilities as Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Gary.

Regarding Father Chase, our policies and the policies of the Church Universal require me to submit all of the facts of this case to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican. In due time, they will inform me on how to proceed in this matter. In the meantime, Father Chase is not permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or to administer the Sacraments; is not to reside in any residence in which a minor lives or is present; and is not to wear clerical garb or to present himself publicly as a priest.

I expect that all of you are deeply troubled and saddened by this matter. Some of you may be angry and even scandalized. I am willing to meet with anyone who has further questions in Queen of All Saints Church following the last Mass on this Sunday, April 18th. I will be coming from the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and expect to be at the church by 12:45 p.m.

I beg you to keep Father Chase, the alleged victim, the people of Queen of All Saints Parish, our wonderful priests and seminarians, and all of the people of the diocese in your prayers.

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord,

Most Reverend Dale J. Melczek
Bishop of Gary

DJM/vm

Statement From Terrence R. Chase:

I can assure you that the allegations accusing me of inappropriate behavior are simply not true. I do not know why these destructive accusations were leveled against me. Regardless, the process the Diocese has in place for investigating the allegations has progressed to the point where I have been placed on administrative leave from my responsibilities. I have cooperated with the process and plan to continue participating in the process in order to bring this inquiry to its appropriate resolution. Meanwhile, to the many friends, family, parishioners and others who are part of my life, you will be in my prayers and I trust that in turn, you will keep me in your prayers.

Terrence R Chase

April 15, 2010