



ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS
CLERGY BULLETIN

September 18, 2013

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MINISTERIAL STANDARDS BOARD

Reverend and dear Fathers and Deacons,

In order to address allegations of clergy misconduct which do not involve sexual abuse of a minor, there exists a need for the creation and establishment of a Ministerial Standards Board to serve as a resource to the Archbishop and his staff in regard to clergy misconduct.

I hereby establish the Ministerial Standards Board for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis as it pertains to issues surrounding clergy misconduct which do not involve the sexual abuse of minors by clergy.

Given at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 18th day of September, in the year of Our Lord 2013.
All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Susan Mulheron, JCL
Chancellor for Canonical Affairs

There is to exist in this Archdiocese a Ministerial Standards Board as a confidential, advisory, consultative body that advises the Archbishop in his assessment of allegations of acts of misconduct by clergy, other than those involving sexual abuse of a minor, as understood in accord with Article 6 of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*. Allegations involving sexual abuse of a minor would be referred to the Clergy Review Board. Acts of misconduct would include sexual misconduct by clergy with adults, including adults with whom the member of the clergy had a pastoral relationship.

It may also include other instances of misconduct, including, but not limited to, gambling, drug or alcohol violations, financial crimes, criminal lewd conduct, possession of some forms of sexually explicit materials, other boundary violations and other inappropriate behavioral actions.

This Ministerial Standards Board is to also review diocesan policies on sexual or other forms of misconduct and, as requested by the Archbishop, advise the Archbishop on all aspects of these cases, whether retrospectively or prospectively.

1. Membership and Composition

The Ministerial Standards Board shall be made up of a minimum of at least five (5) members, who shall be persons of "outstanding integrity and good judgment in full communion with the Church." The maximum number of members of the Ministerial Standards Board shall be determined by the Archbishop.

One member shall be a priest with experience serving as a pastor in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, one member shall be from among the membership on the Pastor Review Board, one member shall be the Vicar for Clergy, two members shall be lay persons who are not in the employ of the Archdiocese, a parish or a Catholic school, one of whom has appropriate experience in the evaluation, assessment and treatment of chemical dependency.

The members will receive a formal letter of appointment from the Archbishop for a term of office for five (5) years, with the possibility of renewal at the discretion of the Archbishop. In his discretion, the Archbishop may make appointments of members for a term of less than five (5) years to stagger terms of members to ensure continuity.

The Ministerial Standards Board is a confidential, consultative body and members are expected to maintain complete confidence about matters before them.

Any member of the Ministerial Standards Board may be removed at any time by the Archbishop. The Ministerial Standards Board will function according to the policies and procedures adopted by the Board, with the approval of the Archbishop. Officers of the Board may include a Chair and Secretary.

2. Meetings

The Ministerial Standards Board shall have regularly scheduled meetings as determined by the Chair and the Archbishop. Both the Archbishop and the Chair shall have the authority to continue, suspend, cancel or otherwise schedule additional meetings as necessary to undertake the work of the Ministerial Standards Board, including convening emergency meetings.

All members are expected to attend meetings of the Ministerial Standards Board, either in person or by teleconference, videoconference or other suitable means as are available. Frequent absence from Ministerial Standards Board meetings may result in the Chair recommending that the Archbishop remove such member.

3. Promoter of Justice

The Promoter of Justice appointed by the Archbishop to serve in penal cases will participate in the meetings of the Ministerial Standards Board. The Promoter of Justice is not a member of the Board, but will attend the meetings to help ensure and safeguard the integrity of the process followed by the Ministerial Standards Board specifically with regard to matters related to canon law. In accord with Article 11 of *Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela*, the Promoter of Justice "is to be a priest, possessing a doctorate in canon law, outstanding in good morals, prudence, and expertise in the law. He is to carry out his office in all grades of judgment."

4. Staffing and Support

The Ministerial Standards Board will be provided with sufficient staff and support from the Office of the Vicar for Clergy or other office designated by the Archbishop to undertake its responsibilities and the Archbishop shall specifically designate one of his staff to attend the Ministerial Standards Board meetings to assist the Ministerial Standards Board in its work. The staff person so designated shall have no voice in the meetings of the Ministerial Standards Board other than as determined by the Chair, and shall not have a vote in the deliberations of the Ministerial Standards Board.

5. Review

The Ministerial Standards Board reviews allegations of acts of misconduct by priests and deacons reported to it by the Archbishop and his curial staff, as defined and described herein.

The role of the Ministerial Standards Board is not investigatory; it evaluates evidence presented by any investigation, offers advice, and reviews intervention or other steps taken in regard to the matters in question, as appropriate, for the Archbishop. That advice may include matters pertaining to the particular priest or deacon and his suitability for further or continued ministry, if any.

The Archbishop may report the results of any investigation to the Ministerial Standards Board and seek its advice in evaluating the proofs and evidence gathered in any investigation and seek the counsel of the Ministerial Standards Board as to the credibility of the allegations. Prior to offering its counsel, the Ministerial Standards Board may request additional evidence or ask to see specific evidence.

The report of the investigator, if any, may be provided to the Ministerial Standards Board. With the consent of the Archbishop, the investigator may be invited to present the report and answer relevant questions in regard thereto.

In addition to any report of the investigation, the Ministerial Standards Board may be provided with other material deemed to be relevant to the matters under consideration by the Ministerial Standards Board in any particular matter.

Based on the consideration of any investigation and the advice and counsel of the Ministerial Standards Board, unless the allegations are determined to be manifestly false, then the Archbishop is to determine to initiate the process to inflict or declare a penalty or determine the suitability of the particular priest or deacon for further or continued ministry.

6. Process

The Ministerial Standards Board acts as a confidential, advisory, consultative body which advises the Archbishop in his assessment of allegations of misconduct by clergy, other than those allegations involving sexual abuse of a minor, and the steps taken in regard thereto. The process for providing such advice is to be determined by the Ministerial Standards Board with the consent of the Archbishop. The Ministerial Standards Board is not expected to collect or maintain any records of its deliberations following the making of its recommendation to the Archbishop.

As also stated, the Ministerial Standards Board is to also review diocesan policies on sexual or other forms of misconduct and, as requested by the Archbishop, advise the Archbishop on all aspects of these cases, whether retrospectively or prospectively.