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# West suburban priest who had sexual contact with teen girl 35 years ago removed from ministry: diocese

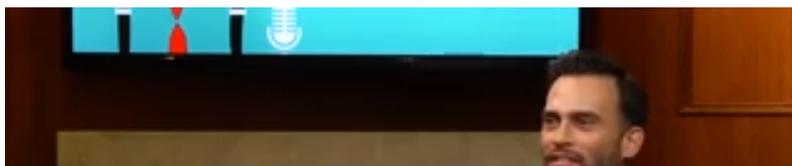
By **Staff report**  
Chicago Tribune

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**A** Catholic priest who served at several west suburban parishes has been permanently removed from ministry after admitting to having sexual contact with a teen girl more than 35 years ago, according to the Joliet Diocese.

The Rev. Mark Jendrysik was until recently the pastor at St. Matthew Parish in Glendale Heights, according to a statement by the diocese. Published reports and church records indicate that over the years he has also worked at St. Raphael in Naperville, St. Philip the Apostle in Addison and St. Walter in Roselle.

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The diocese, in a statement released Sunday, said Jendrysik was removed from ministry by Bishop Daniel Conlon after consultation with a diocesan review board and in accordance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, a set of procedures established by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for addressing sex abuse allegations against priests.

“On behalf of the Diocese of Joliet, Bishop Conlon expresses his deepest regrets and apology to the victim,” the statement said. “The reporting of such incidents is emotionally difficult, and the victim in this case has shown great courage in coming forward.”

The statement alleged the sexual contact with the teen occurred while Jendrysik was a seminarian serving a summer internship with the Joliet Diocese. The statement didn’t specify when the alleged contact was first reported, or specifically when and why the priest left St. Matthew.

The diocese said the matter has been reported to law enforcement authorities.

Jendrysik could not be reached for comment Monday.

The diocese said that anyone with information about inappropriate behavior by any adult representing the diocese is encouraged to contact civil authorities or the Illinois Clergy Abuse Hotline at 888-414-7678 and the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator 815-263-6467.

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