



**Diocese
of
Cleveland**

Cathedral Square

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

205/2013

To: All Pastors, Priests, and Deacons of the Diocese of Cleveland

From: Most Reverend Richard Lennon, Bishop of Cleveland

Re: Status of Patrick Henry

Date: April 29, 2013

Priest No Longer in Clerical State

The Holy See has notified the Diocese of Cleveland that Patrick Henry was granted a dispensation from the clerical state.

In response to credible accusations of sexual misconduct involving a minor, Patrick Henry was removed from active ministry in 2007. Subsequently, Patrick Henry requested a dispensation from the Clerical state (once known as laicization) for the good of the Church. Dispensation from the clerical state means that in accord with canon law, Patrick Henry is unable to function in any capacity as a priest anywhere, with the exception of offering absolution to those in danger of death.

The Diocese of Cleveland continues its commitment to protecting children and helping to heal victims of abuse. We are deeply sorry for the pain suffered by survivors of abuse due to the action of some members of the Clergy, especially as protecting children is so important.