

NEWS RELEASE

Catholic Diocese of Peoria
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**“CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA REQUESTS PRIEST TO NO LONGER
FUNCTION IN PUBLIC MINISTRY”**

For Immediate Release

Peoria, Illinois- Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C., of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria has asked Father Gordon Pillon, last serving as pastor of St. Patrick Church, St. Hyacinth Church, Holy Rosary Church, and Resurrection Church, all located in LaSalle, Illinois, to step down from public ministry. Recent allegations of sexual misconduct of a minor were made against Pillon dating back nearly 25 years ago. During the time of the abuse mentioned in the allegations, Pillon was a priest incardinated in the Diocese of Orange, California. He has been asked not to function as a Catholic priest in any public capacity, to no longer wear clerical garb or the Roman collar, and to refrain from using the title Reverend or Father. In accord with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, prior to making the decision to remove Father Pillon from public ministry, Bishop Jenky consulted with and sought the advice of the Sexual Review Commission who were made aware of the allegations and advised the Bishop as to their opinion of the creditability of the allegations. The current Review Commission is made up of clergy, physicians, educators, psychologists, a victim, attorneys, and civil officials.

The Diocese of Peoria was not aware of any allegations at the time of his incardination into the Diocese of Peoria in 1993. Pillon assignments in the Diocese of Peoria include campus ministry at Bradley University, Peoria (1990-1992), St. Edward Church, Chillicothe (1992-1996), St. John's Chapel, Champaign (1999-2000), St. John Church, Clinton (2000-2003), St. Patrick Church, Wapella (2000-2003), Sacred Heart Church, Farmer City (2003), St. John Church, Bellflower (2003), St. Patrick Church, LaSalle (2003-2006), St. Hyacinth Church, LaSalle (2003-2006), Holy Rosary Church (2003-2006), Resurrection Church (2005-2006).

Under the direction of Bishop Jenky, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria remains committed to maintaining a safe environment for all children. The implementation of the Protecting God's Children program related to Virtus programs has made an impact on the safety of the children in the Catholic faith communities throughout the 26 counties of the Diocese.

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Bishop Jenky continues to pray for all victims of sexual abuse. He sends his heartfelt apologies to all those affected and prays that our Lord will heal the wounds resulting from this abuse. Bishop Jenky also asks for the prayers of the faithful for all the individuals involved in this case and especially for the overwhelming majority of our priests and lay ministers whose zeal and holiness do so much to build up the body of Christ in Central Illinois.

At this time, out of respect for the privacy for the victims involved in the cases, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria will not be providing any further information.

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