

Dear Friends,

I first heard over four weeks ago that an allegation has been made against me. It is being claimed that, twenty (20) years ago, in 1993, I showed inappropriate misconduct to one person on one occasion. I was floored when I heard of this allegation. I am not guilty of this charge. I have, during my 32 years of priestly service, never on any occasion committed physical or sexual abuse of any person.

The procedures adopted by the Bishops of the United States in 2002 require that I be suspended from my priestly duties while a charge is being investigated. Thus I must step down from my duties here at St. Mary's.

I ask that you pray for everyone who is involved in this matter, praying that truth will prevail, that all parties will find healing, and that this will somehow prove to be an occasion of grace for all of us. I have enjoyed my time as your pastor and thank you for strengthening my faith, as I hope that I have done for you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Msgr. Michael A. Cherup