



**The Catholic Diocese of Buffalo
Office of the Apostolic Administrator**

March 21, 2020

My Brother Priests and Colleagues -

Today, I am announcing that I have placed Father Peter Karalus on administrative leave, given that an allegation of sexual misconduct has been received from an individual who was a minor in 2011 when the person alleges that an incident occurred. This is a source of great sorrow and regret for me personally, as I know it is for you.

According to our rigorous protocols and procedures, an independent investigation into this allegation will now be conducted, with the findings to be reported to the Independent Review Board in order that its members might consider the facts and make an appropriate recommendation. It is important to emphasize that this administrative leave is for the purpose of investigation and does not imply any determination about the truth or falsity of the complaint.

In the meantime, I have appointed Monsignor Salvatore Manganello, currently Judicial Vicar and Pastor of St. Louis Catholic Church, to serve as Vicar General, and the Reverend Walter J. Szczesny (SEZ-Nee), former Director of Vocations and currently pastor of Our Lady of Peace, Clarence, NY, to serve as temporary Moderator of the Curia.

I ask for your fervent prayers at this time for our Diocese and for the healing that must be our constant preoccupation.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

+Edward B. Scharfenberger

The Most Reverend Edward B. Scharfenberger
Apostolic Administrator