

Statement from the archdiocese

On Feb. 28, the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas was informed that the Capuchin Franciscans Province of Mid-America recently received an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor against Father Michael Scully, OFM Cap. The allegation stems from Father Scully's ministry outside the archdiocese; within the archdiocese, he has served at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Lawrence; Holy Family Parish, Eudora; and most recently at Haskell Indian Nations University Catholic Campus Center, Lawrence.

Upon notification of the allegation, the province and the archdiocese relieved Father Scully from public exercise of priestly ministry pending the outcome of the investigation and review process. The province has notified law enforcement, initiated an independent investigation and evaluation by its Independent Review Board, and is providing support to the person alleging harm.

Father Scully denies the allegation and is cooperating fully. He will remain on leave until an independent investigation is concluded and the province's Independent Review Board has reviewed the case and made a recommendation to the provincial minister regarding the credibility of the matter as it regards Father Scully. We ask for prayers for a just resolution of this matter.

The province encourages anyone with knowledge about this case or about any misconduct by any of its members to contact civil authorities first, and then make a report to its Safe Environment Coordinator by email at: se@capuchins.org. A copy of provincial policies on sexual abuse can be found online at: <https://capuchins.org/protecting-children>.

The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas takes all allegations of misconduct by church personnel very seriously and works to respond to survivors' needs with urgency and respect. We encourage anyone with knowledge about any misconduct by any church volunteer, employee, religious or clergy member to contact civil authorities first, and then make a report to our confidential report line at (913) 647-3051 or online at: www.archkck.org/reportabuse.