



## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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The Most Reverend Andrew H. Cozzens

April 11, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write today with an update on the status of Deacon Aaron Kaiser.

Last June, Bishop Richard Pates, while serving as Apostolic Administrator, placed Deacon Kaiser on Administrative Leave because an allegation of sexual misconduct was received. The single incident in question involved Deacon Kaiser when he and others were minors.

Bishop Pates ordered an investigation into the matter. The Ministerial Review Board (Board) was apprised of the results of the investigation and heard Deacon Kaiser's response. The Board found the accusation to be founded, but that it does not constitute a grave delict of sexual abuse of a minor, especially because of the age of those involved. However, the Board believes that Deacon Aaron needs time to work on the personal issues this incident has raised in his life and has not approved his return to ministry at this time.

I have reviewed the recommendation of the Board and have agreed that Deacon Kaiser should not return to ministry at this time. In addition, Deacon Kaiser has resigned his employment as Pastoral Associate for the Diocese of Crookston's Office of Formation in Discipleship.

I invite your prayers for all involved in this decision.

In Christ,

The Most Rev. Andrew H. Cozzens, S.T.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Crookston