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October 18, 2025

Little Flower Parish
2600 Sunset Ave.
Waukegan, IL 60087

Dear Little Flower Parish Family,

I write to share some difficult news about your pastor, Father Xamie Reyes. The Archdiocese has received allegations against Father Reyes of grooming and sexual misconduct. The allegations do not involve children and youth, but they do involve seminarians. This is a very serious matter. Father Reyes will live away from the parish pending the outcome of an investigation into these charges.

I have appointed Reverend Ismael Garcia, your current associate pastor as administrator of Little Flower Parish, effective immediately. Father Garcia knows the needs of your parish well and with the assistance of your Episcopal Vicar, Bishop Timothy O'Malley, will ensure that you continue to receive pastoral care.

I know that this is unsettling news, but I take seriously the responsibility to ensure those serving you are fit for ministry and that all are kept safe. I do appreciate your patience as we work to evaluate thoroughly these allegations. Only by doing so can we remain true to our promise to keep everyone safe.

The Archdiocese of Chicago takes seriously all allegations of misconduct and encourages everyone experiencing it to come forward. They will be received with dignity and compassion. Complete information about reporting misconduct can be found on the archdiocesan website at www.archchicago.org.

I will inform you of any new developments and am grateful for your understanding. Please know the people of Little Flower Parish are in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Cardinal" or similar, written in a cursive style.

Archbishop of Chicago