



The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE

Statement Regarding Father Charbel Jamhoury

In October 2025, the Diocese of Baton Rouge received a report of serious boundary violations with an adult regarding Father Charbel Jamhoury, a priest of the Maronite Lebanese Order, who currently serves as pastor of St. Isidore the Farmer in Baker. After receiving information regarding these allegations, the diocese contracted with an independent, private investigator to examine the matter further. It was announced on the weekend of 27/28 December 2025 that Father Jamhoury would temporarily leave the parish for a full health evaluation of his physical, mental, and psychological well-being at a professional, inpatient facility outside of the diocese.

It is important to note that the Diocese of Baton Rouge mandates that all suspected abuse be reported to the proper civil authority. It must be stressed that no allegations of physical sexual abuse or criminal activity have been reported to diocesan officials in this situation or at any time during Father Charbel's service in the diocese. Still, the circumstances of this situation were concerning enough that further action was warranted by Bishop Duca.

After extensive conversation with all parties involved and an investigation which also included interviews by law enforcement, the diocesan investigation, and the full health assessment of Father Jamhoury, Bishop Duca has made the determination that Father Charbel be removed from his office as Pastor of St. Isidore effective immediately.

Until arrangements can be made to secure a new pastor for the parish, sacramental ministry will be performed by visiting priests, deacons assigned to the parish, and other clergy, as available.

Transparency is necessary to maintain a culture of trust for the Church to fulfill her mission. While the diocese is unable to provide any further details regarding this matter, and while many members of the community have been frustrated due to the length of this process and perceived silence, due diligence in such matters is necessary to protect the interests of both the claimant and the priest.

Bishop Duca respects those who brought this matter to his attention since it took courage, and their intentions have always been for the good of the Church and St. Isidore the Farmer. He thanks them for their patience and assistance, and he deeply regrets any pain and suffering this has caused them.

*Given at the Chancery
10 February 2026, The Memorial of St. Scholastica*