



Office of the Archbishop  
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April 18, 2023

Dear Holy Name of Mary Parish Family,

Last September, I wrote to tell you we had received an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor against Father James Flynn, a retired priest who served in your parish as an associate from February 1995 to February 1997, as administrator from February 1997 to May 1997, and as pastor from May 1997 to June 2012. He was named pastor emeritus in 2012. The allegation was alleged to have occurred 45 years ago when Father Flynn was assigned to Resurrection Parish. In keeping with our child protection policies, I directed Father Flynn to remain out of ministry while the allegation was investigated, and he has cooperated with this direction.

As is required by our child protection policies, the allegation was reported to civil authorities. The person making the allegation was offered the services of our Victim Assistance Ministry.

On April 15, the Independent Review Board of the Archdiocese of Chicago met to consider the results of its investigation and determined that there is not a reasonable cause to believe that Father Flynn sexually abused a minor. The Board recommended that the file be closed and Father Flynn be returned to ministry. Therefore, after considering their recommendations, I am restoring Father Flynn to ministry, effective immediately.

It is crucial that you know nothing is more important than the welfare of the children entrusted to our care. The Archdiocese of Chicago takes all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and encourages anyone who feels they have been sexually abused by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee to come forward. Complete information about reporting sexual abuse can be found on the Archdiocesan website at [www.archchicago.org](http://www.archchicago.org).

Please know that you are in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Cardinal Cappelletti".  
Archbishop of Chicago