



Office of the Archbishop
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April 18, 2023

Dear Our Lord of Mercy 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 Ascension-St. Susanna and St. Gerard Majella Parishes as administrator from September 2018 to February 2019. 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.

Please know that you are in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago