



Embargoed until 10/13/18 at 4:15 p.m.

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Priest Placed on Administrative Leave Following Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor Over 25 Years Ago

Bishop Daniel E. Thomas has placed Father Nelson Beaver, a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, on administrative leave, effective immediately. This action was taken as the result of a recently made allegation of sexual abuse of a minor dating back over 25 years ago. Father Beaver is the pastor of Resurrection Parish, Lexington and St. Mary of the Snows Parish, Mansfield. The allegation was not made in relation to these parish assignments. He is no longer residing at those parishes while on administrative leave.

Father Beaver has denied the allegation and this is the only such accusation against him which the Diocese has received.

The allegation has been reported to civil authorities as required by diocesan policy. The diocese has extended an offer of pastoral care to the individual reporting the allegation. Out of pastoral care, the Bishop's representative, the Dean of the area, will inform the parishioners and offer all weekend masses at Resurrection and St. Mary of the Snows parishes. In addition, counselors are being made available at all weekend masses for those in need of support.

In accordance with the [Policy for the Protection of Minors and Young People](#), while on administrative leave, Father Beaver cannot exercise public priestly ministry, administer any of the Sacraments, wear clerical attire or present himself as a priest. Administrative leave is a precautionary measure while an allegation is being investigated. It should be noted that this is not a final determination of guilt. If law enforcement chooses not to pursue the matter, in accord with diocesan policy, the allegation will be independently investigated and presented to the Review Board.

Bishop Daniel Thomas said, "We take every allegation of abuse of a minor with the utmost seriousness. Administrative leave is a first, precautionary step that safeguards and protects children while we start a canonical process of determining whether the allegation can be substantiated and whether a priest should remain in ministry."

Any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, staff member or volunteer affiliated with the Diocese of Toledo should first be reported to local law enforcement where the abuse is alleged to have occurred. Please also report any such allegation to the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 419-214-4880.

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