



VICAR FOR CLERGY  
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

December 21, 2018

Dear Parishioners of Saint Joseph's,

You have probably seen various media stories concerning one of the priests in residence in your parish, Father Donald Timone. Unfortunately, those stories are incomplete and contain inaccuracies. The fact is that the case of Father Timone is an example of the effectiveness of the Church's procedures. Let me give you some background.

We are grateful that, sixteen years ago, after conducting their own investigation, the Dutchess County District Attorney referred to the Archdiocese of New York an allegation of sexual abuse of minor brought against Father Timone. As is our protocol, Father Timone was removed from ministry, the allegation carefully investigated, and the entire matter turned over to our Review Board. They determined, after studying the case and interviewing both the person bringing the allegation and Father Timone, that the allegation was not substantiated. Thus, Father Timone was returned to ministry.

As many of you know, the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program was established in 2016 by the Archdiocese of New York as an independent process, administered by Mr. Ken Feinberg, to provide compensation to those who had been harmed by sexual abuse. Because it is a compensation program, and not a legal one, it has a different standard of proof and review. The original complaint about Father Timone was brought to the IRCP, and, in the course of its investigation, new information came to light. This resulted in compensation being paid. The IRCP has been remarkably effective, as it has brought a measure of comfort and peace to some 300 individuals. One of the reasons the program works so well is that the decisions reached by the administrators of the IRCP are, once again, made independent of the archdiocese.

Upon learning that the IRCP did grant compensation, the archdiocese asked the Review Board if they would be willing to re-examine this case, to see if the new information or other material would perhaps cause them to change their original determination that the allegation had not been substantiated. The review board has agreed to do so, and that process is now underway. For now, Father Timone has been instructed to once again step aside from his ministry until the case is resolved. The process is working.

I regret that this matter must come before you during the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas. Through the intercession of Mary, our Mother, and Saint Joseph, your patron, may God grant you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Christmas.

I will keep you posted.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerald T. Walsh  
Vicar for Clergy