



DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT

Department of Communication

News

For Immediate Release

DATE: November 24, 2020

FROM: Deacon David Montgomery
Diocese of Davenport

PHONE: 563-888-4222
montgomery@davenportdiocese.org

RE: Rev. Robert “Bud” Grant Returned to Ministry

Rev. Robert “Bud” Grant has been returned to ministry by Most Rev. William Joensen, Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines, following an investigation into an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor that was reported to have occurred in the Diocese of Des Moines in the early 1990s.

While the report was being investigated, Fr. Grant’s faculties to minister as a priest were suspended by Bishop Joensen and Bishop Zinkula, and he was suspended from teaching at St. Ambrose University in Davenport.

Although the investigation established that there was misconduct, it clearly did not meet the criteria of sexual abuse of a minor as defined by Church law at the time of the incident. For remedial purposes, Bishop Joensen imposed restrictions on the ministry of Fr. Grant and supervision of his activities, which will be in place for at least a year.

Most Rev. Thomas Zinkula has determined that Fr. Grant may return to his assignment at St. Andrew Parish, Blue Grass.

Fr. Grant met recently with administrators at St. Ambrose University. His suspension from teaching at the University has been lifted, effective with the Spring 2021 semester. Fr. Grant will abide by the restrictions imposed by the Diocese of Des Moines while engaged with St. Ambrose University students and employees.

The Iowa Attorney General and law enforcement in Polk, Pottawattamie and Scott Counties were informed of the report. The Diocese has not received any other reports of misconduct involving Fr. Grant.

Additional information may be found in a news release from the Diocese of Des Moines. Questions should be referred to Anne Marie Cox, Director of Communications and Public Relations for the Diocese of Des Moines: acox@dmdiocese.org, 515-237-5057.

-END-

To report child sexual abuse, call the Iowa Attorney General Clergy Abuse hotline at (855) 620-7000, or the Iowa Department of Human Services Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 362-2178. If it involves clergy or church personnel, also notify Alicia Owens, Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Davenport at (563) 349-5002, vac@diodav.org or PO Box 232, Bettendorf IA 52722-0004.



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

NEWSRELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: Nov. 24, 2020

Contact: Anne Marie Cox, (515) 333-8387
acox@dmdiocese.org

Bishop imposes restrictions, supervision on priest

Investigation finds misconduct; but not sexual abuse of a minor

Rev. Robert “Bud” Grant will return to ministry with restrictions and supervision, following an investigation into an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor. Evidence gathered during the investigation established the allegation did not meet the criteria necessary to take to the Vatican for further review or canonical trial.

Since the investigation began last March, Des Moines Bishop William Joensen and the diocesan Allegation Review Committee gathered and reviewed the evidence, including the initial complaint, examined an investigative report produced by a third party, and consulted with experts in church law. The state’s Attorney General’s office and law enforcement in Polk, Pottawattamie and Scott Counties are aware of the allegation of behavior occurring in the early 1990s.

The investigation clearly established that the allegation did not meet the criteria of sexual abuse of a minor as defined by Church law at the time of the incident, because the complainant was above majority age. However, it was also established that Father Grant engaged in behavior in select instances in the early 1990s that violated the Sixth Commandment and his priestly promises.

Given the seriousness of the misconduct, Bishop Joensen determined it both necessary and prudent to issue restrictions on Father Grant’s ministry. While not a judgment of guilt with

regard to the allegation of abuse of a minor, these restrictions impose remedial measures and parameters for further exercise of priestly ministry by Father Grant. The restrictions are as follows:

--No touch policy for anyone younger than 24 years old except for exchanging the sign of peace with handshake or offering blessing during public celebration of the sacraments.

--All one-to-one ministry with individual up to 24 years of age, including the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation, or other academic support is to be in an accessible space visible to the public.

--No individual meeting in a rectory, parish, academic or other setting is permitted when no else is present in the building or natural space (park, outdoor campus setting, etc.).

--Any offsite ministry, course-related or social gatherings with individuals up to 24 years of age must have an adult older than age 24 present.

These restrictions are in place for one year, to be reviewed and adjusted as necessary. Church law does not allow for perpetual restrictions in this situation.

In addition, Father Grant has agreed to a monitor, who will supervise his activities, and is not to engage any ministry beyond his current assignments without express permission from Bishop Joensen.

Father Grant has been on administrative leave since last March. He is expected to return to teaching at St. Ambrose University in Davenport and offer sacramental ministry at a rural parish with the approval of the school and Davenport Bishop Thomas Zinkula.

Father Grant was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Des Moines in 1984. He attended St. Albert Catholic School, St. Ambrose University in Davenport and the Gregorian University in Rome. He holds a doctorate from the University of Iowa in religious studies. After ordination, he served in team ministry in three Shelby County parishes: St. Mary in Portsmouth, St. Mary in Panama and St. Boniface in Westphalia. He served on the faculty at St. Albert High School from 1988-1994. Since 1994, he has served on the faculty of St. Ambrose University. He has served as a sacramental minister at St. Andrew Parish in Bluegrass, Iowa, since 2008.

Victims of sexual abuse by clergy and their families are encouraged to contact the

diocesan Victim Assistance Advocate Sam Porter for counseling opportunities or to file a complaint. Porter can be reached at 515-286-2024 or at Sam.Porter@polkcountyiowa.gov.

The Diocese of Des Moines includes 80 parishes in 23 counties in central and southwest Iowa.