



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

# NEWSRELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

**Date:** March 18, 2020

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## **Bishop acts on allegation**

*Father Robert Grant placed on leave pending investigation*

Bishop William Joensen, Ph.D., has placed diocesan priest Rev. Robert “Bud” Grant, Ph.D., on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation into an allegation of sexual misconduct.

A priest of the Diocese of Des Moines, Father Grant has been on the faculty of St. Ambrose University in Davenport since 1994. While on leave, he is restricted from all public priestly ministry. Father Grant has been suspended by the university pending the outcome of the Diocese of Des Moines review process.

The complaint alleges sexual misconduct that occurred in the early 1990s. Law enforcement authorities in Scott, Polk and Pottawatomie Counties have been notified of the complaint. Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller’s office was the first to receive the complaint last fall. The diocese has been in contact with Attorney General Miller’s office to communicate receipt of the allegation, summary of actions taken, and the intended process going forward.

Diocese of Des Moines officials were first made aware of the complaint on Thursday, Feb. 27. Finding the allegation had a semblance of truth, Bishop Joensen directed the opening of a preliminary investigation, placed Father Grant on administrative leave and restricted his ministry on Wednesday, March 4.

“Our diocese has taken extensive steps to ensure that today we have a safe environment in our churches and schools,” said Bishop Joensen. “We know it can take years, sometimes

decades, for victims to summon the courage to come forward. While we investigate this allegation, it is my ardent hope that it serves as an impetus for anyone who may have been sexually abused by a clergy member of our diocese to let us know so that we can prevent it from ever happening again. Please keep all those involved in this matter in your prayers.”

Consistent with diocesan policy, Father Grant is presumed innocent during the investigation of the allegation. The Diocese of Des Moines Allegation Review Committee will review evidence produced by the investigation and offer counsel to the bishop according to their standard protocol. This group is comprised of an attorney, a retired teacher, a psychologist, a chief of police, a judge, a priest and deacon. They will make a recommendation to Bishop Joensen regarding the appropriate course of action, which may include forwarding the case to the Vatican for review, canonical trial and appropriate penalty, which may include removal from the priesthood.

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@polkcountyia.gov](mailto:Sam.Porter@polkcountyia.gov).

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