



Diocese of Madison

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For Immediate Release
Brent King
Director of Communications

Additional Information regarding Fr. William Nolan

(Madison) The diocese will add here, as appropriate, additional information, requested from the public, regarding Fr. William Nolan, a retired priest of the diocese, charged with sexual abuse of a minor. Fr. Nolan has been suspended from all ministerial activity/his faculties have been removed (on administrative leave).

**** Updated May 25, 2018 ** - Corrected from an earlier version, to clarify any inaccuracies.**

The diocese takes very seriously its responsibility to communicate with the community, Catholic and non-Catholic, about all scandalous accusations regarding ministers of the Church. We also feel compelled to correct any misconceptions or errors when it comes to the truth regarding these very serious allegations. Recent statements about, and questions pertaining to, perceived discrepancies need to be addressed. We do so here:

Until Monday, May 21, 2018, no allegation of sexual misconduct had ever been made to the diocese against Fr. Nolan. A concern was raised to the diocese by a third party, in 2009, but until Monday the adult male involved consistently stated to the diocese, that he did not accuse Fr. Nolan of sexual misconduct, and he disclaimed the third party. In 2015, the man brought a complaint against Fr. Nolan to the Janesville Police Department. In reviewing the police report (released May 23, 2018) and contacting the Janesville Police Department again, we know that while there was still no allegation made to the diocese, there was in fact an allegation of sexual assault reported to the Janesville Police against Fr. Nolan in 2015 and that the former chancellor volunteered the information he had to the police.

The May 18, 2018 press release intended to provide some reassurance to members of the communities where Fr. Nolan had been assigned, prior to his 2007 retirement, that no other accusations had been made relating to any of those assignments. Although the press release was specific to the charges of sexual assault of a minor, and did not mention the previous incident, the diocese had no intention to conceal or downplay the previous incident. The diocese had already immediately disclosed the 2009 incident, then without any sexual misconduct allegation, to the Fort Atkinson Police, in our initial contact with them on May 16, 2018, following the arrest. The Fort Atkinson Police Department already knew of the incident when contacted by the diocese. The diocese had every expectation that the matter would be publicly divulged, in the course of the investigation into the current charges, just as it was divulged in the Fort Atkinson Police press conference, on May 17, 2018.

The diocese has been in contact, again today, with both the Fort Atkinson and Janesville Police Departments, regarding yesterday's allegation, and will continue to collaborate with both departments to assure they have all relevant information that has come and may still come to the diocese regarding these (now two) accusations – one against a minor, and another against an adult male. The second of which was brought to the diocese Monday, May 21, 2018, and the first of which was never been brought to the diocese, except through the public disclosure of Fr. Nolan's arrest and charges last week.

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(more)

[Media Release of May 21, 2018.](#)

**** Updated May 18, 2018 ****

Fr. William Nolan was:

- born May 31, 1953
- ordained a priest of the Diocese of Madison on May 31, 1985

Fr. William Nolan's assignments as a priest of the Diocese of Madison were:

St. Henry Parish, Watertown	1985-1987
St. Patrick Parish, Madison	1987-1989
St. John Vianney Parish, Janesville	1989-1994
St. Peter Parish, Madison	1994-1996
St. Paul Catholic University Center, Madison	1996
St. Pius X Parish, Cambridge	1996-2002
St. Joseph Parish, Fort Atkinson	2002-2007

Where has Fr. Nolan lived since his retirement in 2007?

Retired priests have faculties to function as priests in the diocese, but do not have assignments. Some retired priest leave the state for warmer weather, and no longer reside in the diocese they served. Often retired priests fill in on a Sunday, if someone is ill or taking a vacation. Fr. Nolan has assisted in this way, to various degrees, over the past 10+ years. When and where he has assisted has been negotiated by the pastors/administrators of those locations. As frequently reported, Fr. Nolan has resided at a rectory of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, in Madison, since 2014.

Will Fr. Nolan be living at Our Lady Queen of Peace?

Fr. William Nolan will not be residing at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, while this matter is being investigated and adjudicated.

[Original diocesan statement of May 17, 2018.](#)

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