



Diocese of Madison

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For Immediate Release
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Director of Communications

Release

New Allegation Made Today Against Retired Priest, Fr. William Nolan, Claiming Sexual Misconduct Against Adult Male

(Madison) A new allegation of sexual misconduct, alleged to have occurred in 2009 by Fr. William Nolan, a priest who retired in 2007, against a male who was an adult at that time, has been communicated to the Diocese of Madison today, May, 21, 2018. Upon receiving this new allegation of sexual misconduct from the man, the diocesan Chancellor was in immediate contact with both the Fort Atkinson and Janesville Police Departments. Here below we share limited information with regard to this matter, pending further communication with law enforcement.

This allegation of sexual misconduct was made to the diocese after criminal charges were filed against Fr. William Nolan in Jefferson County Circuit Court on May 17, 2018, alleging unrelated sexual assault of a minor male victim.

In 2009, after a concern was raised by a third party, an official from the Diocese of Madison contacted the man who made today's allegation. At that time the man said that he did not accuse Fr. Nolan of any sexual misconduct. After five years, the man contacted the Diocese of Madison but again said that he did not accuse Fr. Nolan of any sexual misconduct. If at any point an accusation of sexual misconduct had been made, it would have been thoroughly investigated.

In 2015, the diocese learned that the man had made a complaint to the Janesville Police Department, though the diocese has not learned the content of that complaint. Following the recent allegations against Fr. Nolan, and after the diocese's press release issued on May 17th, the diocese was again in contact with the man, who now says that he does accuse Fr. Nolan of sexual misconduct in 2009. This new allegation will be investigated in full cooperation with any civil authorities.

As always, any allegation of sexual misconduct should be brought to the attention of law enforcement officials. If allegations involve priests, deacons, or other Church personnel, regardless of when they are said to have occurred, they should also be reported to the Diocese of Madison, by way of the Sexual Misconduct Question and Reporting Line, 608-821-3162. The diocesan policies regarding sexual abuse allegations, and instructions for making a report of sexual misconduct, are available on the diocesan website: madisondiocese.org/safe-environment.

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