



DIOCESE OF STEUBENVILLE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Diocese Reacts to Franciscan Priest's Indictment

The Jefferson County grand jury indicted Third Order Regular (TOR) of St. Francis Father David A. Morrier on rape and sexual battery charges April 7.

The Steubenville Diocese first became aware of the case when the alleged victim presented the allegations to the diocese in November, 2018. Although Father Morrier is not a priest of the Steubenville Diocese, the diocese began an immediate preliminary investigation with the alleged victim and officers with the Steubenville police department. The Diocese of Steubenville submitted a report to the Minister General of the TOR's in Rome as well as to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Holy See on December 11, 2018. Since that time, the diocese has continued to work with the Steubenville police department and has provided updates on the investigation to the Holy See.

The Diocese of Steubenville takes allegations of abuse most seriously and encourages victims of abuse to contact the local police department in whose jurisdiction the abuse occurred.

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