



DIOCESE OF BAKER

Office of the Bishop
641 SW Umatilla Ave. • Redmond, Oregon 97756
Phone (541) 388-4004 • Fax (541) 388-2566
www.dioceseofbaker.org

Statement of
BISHOP LIAM CARY

regarding
Reverend Thomas Faucher
19 February 2018

On February 2nd Father Thomas Faucher was arrested in Boise and charged with sexual exploitation of a child, with distributing sexually exploitative material involving children, and with drug possession. Chat room conversations on his computer disclosed an astonishing depth of engagement with this dark underworld. If convicted of the crimes he is accused of committing, Father Faucher faces possible life imprisonment.

A long-time priest of Boise, Father Faucher has been living there in retirement for the past three years. In the late 1990s and early 2000s he served in the Diocese of Baker, as pastor at St. Edward the Martyr Church in Sisters and in the Diocesan Tribunal in Bend.

Law enforcement officials did not allege that Father Faucher had exploited any individual children, but on February 13th the Diocese of Boise received a credible allegation that he had been involved in sexual abuse of a minor forty years ago. This is the first such accusation to be levelled against him there in his long career; there are none on record in the Diocese of Baker.

Nonetheless, the astonishing discoveries made by the police naturally cast a shadow of suspicion backward. In an instant the trust and respect of many years is shattered, and we find ourselves plunged into sorrow and confusion and pain which only God's grace and the passage of time can cure. If you yourself were sexually exploited by Father Faucher or if you know someone who was, I encourage you to contact the police and the Vicar General of the Diocese of Baker, Father Richard Fischer (541-388-4004). We will do all that we can to assist you.

The behavior Father Faucher engaged in is inexcusable, and it now lies open for all to see. There is no more hiding from the truth—the tragic, disheartening, dispiriting truth. Yet our Redeemer assures us that the truth will set us free. At this late hour in his life Father Faucher stands in great need, not of a good excuse, but of forgiveness for his sins. Let us pray that God grant him grace to stand in the light of truth, to repent, and to find mercy.