



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

SECRETARIAT OF COMMUNICATIONS
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Diocese of Kalamazoo statement regarding Rev. Richard Fritz

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (February 21, 2020) – The Diocese of Kalamazoo released the following statement regarding Rev. Richard Fritz:

“The Diocese of Kalamazoo received an allegation of sexual abuse against Rev. Richard Fritz, retired priest for the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The allegation dates back to the late 1970s and early 1980s. The Diocesan review board (a consultative body that is made up of laypersons with expertise in sexual abuse as well as members of the clergy) deemed the allegation credible*. With full awareness of the Michigan Attorney General’s Office, the Diocese continues to move forward its ecclesiastical procedures as is our standard procedure in these cases. Until this process is concluded, Father Fritz is not permitted to engage in public ministry (e.g. celebrate Mass or the Sacraments, or present himself as a priest in public). To the best of our knowledge, we have received no additional complaints of sexual abuse against Father Fritz.

“Anyone with information related to clergy sexual misconduct to call the reporting number set up by the Attorney General’s Office at 844-324-3374.”

* Credible allegations are not a determination of guilt or innocence rather the term denotes that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the abuse may have occurred.

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The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo is the territory of Catholic churches and community led by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. The diocese was founded in 1971 when the Second Vatican Council called for the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Today the diocese encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and includes 59 parishes as well as 21 Catholic schools. www.diokzoo.org.