

Parishioners of St. Francis Xavier  
September 15, 2018

Dear Friends in the Lord,

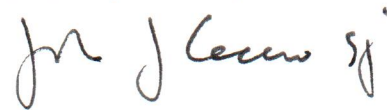
I deeply regret to inform you that I am removing Fr. Bob VerEecke as Pastor of the Church of St. Francis Xavier. About a week ago, the Archdiocese of New York communicated to me complaints by an adult of boundary violations by Fr. VerEecke. I reviewed these complaints with Fr. VerEecke, and he acknowledges a lack of good judgment in his behavior. Consistent with our Province *Ethics in Ministry* policies, I am removing Fr. VerEecke from the Church of St. Francis Xavier and restricting him from the exercise of public sacramental ministry.

I anticipate that many of you will share my regret in taking this action, but we as a Church have learned the hard way that boundary violations must be met with a swift and decisive response from church leadership.

With the permission of the Archdiocese, I am asking Fr. Dan Corrou to become the acting pastor. I ask that you assist Fr. Corrou in assuming the care of the Church of St. Francis Xavier.

I pray for all the parishioners and friends of the Church of St. Francis Xavier. May we support one another in these difficult times and seek God's grace even in this darkness.

Sincerely in Christ,



John J. Cecero, S.J.  
Provincial