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November 9, 2024

Our Lady at St. Germaine Parish
9711 South Kolin Avenue
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Dear Our Lady at St. Germaine Parish and St. Germaine School Family,

I write to share some difficult news. The Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and civil authorities have informed us that they have begun an investigation into an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by Father Martin Marren, who served as associate pastor of St. Germaine Parish from May, 1984 to June, 1991.


In keeping with our child protection policies, I have directed Father Marren to step aside from ministry while the allegation is investigated. While he maintains his innocence, he has agreed to cooperate with this direction and the investigation.

Moreover, as is further required by our child protection policies, the person making the allegation was offered the services of our Victim Assistance Ministry. When the civil authorities and DCFS have completed their work the Archdiocese will conduct its investigation and report the results to our Independent Review Board. Please keep in mind that this is an allegation and has not yet been founded.

At the same time, we want to stress that the welfare of the children entrusted to our care is a paramount. The Archdiocese of Chicago takes all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and encourages anyone who feels they have been sexually abused by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee to come forward. Complete information about reporting sexual abuse can be found on the Archdiocesan website at www.archchicago.org.

Please know that you are in my prayers. We will do our best to keep you informed of developments as they occur.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago