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September 4, 2021

Dear People of the St Gerard Majella, St John the Baptist and Ascension-St Susana Parish Community,

Today I must share difficult news about your pastor, Father Pedro Campos. I have asked Father Campos to step aside from ministry pending investigation of his inappropriate behavior with an adult man while he was pastor at St. Kevin Parish. Father Campos has acknowledged this behavior and will live away from the parish while he enters a period of prayer, spiritual healing and discernment. He is cooperating with this direction. In all such cases, the Archdiocese offers to provide pastoral care through the Office of Victims Assistance Ministry.

While we decide on next steps in this matter, Father Gary Graf, pastor of St. Agnes, St. Kieran and St. Paul in Chicago Heights, will serve as your parish administrator. He will attend to the needs of the parish community.

Surely this message is upsetting to hear, especially as you join to build a new parish community. God calls us to ensure those serving our parishioners are fit for ministry and we sometimes have to make difficult decisions to fulfill that responsibility. Parishioners will always be respected if they come forward with information that needs our attention in this regard.

Please know you will be in my prayers as you go forward to create a vibrant parish. We will keep you informed about new leadership to support you during this time of renewal.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Chicago