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January 16, 2025

St John of the Cross Parish
5005 South Wolf Road
Western Springs, IL 60558-1800

Dear St. John of the Cross Parish Family,

I write to share some difficult news about Father Henry Kricek, a retired priest who has lived and served in our parish since July 2023. The archdiocese has received an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor while Father Kricek was assigned to St. John Bosco Parish approximately 40 years ago. In keeping with our child protection policies, Father Kricek has been asked to step away from ministry during the investigation. While he strenuously denies this allegation, he has agreed to cooperate with this directive.

Moreover, as is required by our child protection policies, the allegation was reported to civil authorities, the person making the allegation was offered the services of our Victim Assistance Ministry and the archdiocese has begun its investigation. After the civil authorities have finished their work, the archdiocese will complete its investigation and report the results to our Independent Review Board. We ask that you reserve judgement on this allegation until the process has concluded, as those accused are innocent until proven otherwise. We appreciate your patience. Only by conducting a thorough and impartial review can we ensure fairness to all concerned.

I want to stress that the welfare of the children entrusted to our care is our paramount concern. 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. They will be received with dignity and compassion. 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