



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

Office of the Bishop

August 25, 2019
21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As you are aware these past few days have been particularly challenging when on Thursday of this past week, the information was released about the arrest of one of your former priests, Father Brian Stanley. With this letter, I want to assure you of my solidarity with you at this difficult time, as well as of my fervent prayers and pastoral support for all of you. In addition, I would like to also take this opportunity to offer some important clarifications.

Father Stanley's arrest, and the serious charges made against him, only were made known to me at the same time this news was released to the public on Thursday morning. Had I known about any of this beforehand, I would have made every effort to inform Father James and Father Tom, and to alert all of you, to the extent that we might have been able to do so. Also, had we had any forewarning, we might have been able to more quickly clarify some misleading factual information that went out in the initial media reports.

The first allegation involving Fr. Stanley was reported to the Diocese in 2013. It was promptly reported to Child Protective Services and investigated by the Otsego Police Department. It was only after police had concluded their investigation, and while Father Stanley was serving this Parish, that the information of an earlier allegation while he was Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, was made known to me in January 2017.

As many of you may recall who were parishioners at that time, I immediately placed Father Stanley on administrative leave and turned that matter over to police for investigation. It was also during that time that the Diocese sent announcements regarding the allegation involving Fr. Stanley to all the Parishes he had served to be published in their bulletins. This is the standard communication procedure we adhere to with all allegations and in accordance with our commitment to transparency in our communication and in creating safe environments for all. Father Stanley has remained on administrative leave since January 2017.



THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

Office of the Bishop

I realize that the news of Father Stanley's arrest is upsetting and may cause a variety of emotions and reactions. I am grateful to Father James Adams and Father Tom McNally for their presence here with you, and I am completely confident of their ability to provide the counsel and pastoral care to help the parish. This otherwise troubling time also provides another opportunity for me to strongly reaffirm my, and the Church's, absolute commitment to protecting all God's faithful people, especially all our children and any vulnerable adults. With Father James and Father Tom's guidance, and with God's grace, may we move forward together in Hope.

Assuring you of my prayers for you and the entire Ss. John/Bernard Parish Family, and asking for your prayers for me and for our beloved Diocese, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley
Bishop of Kalamazoo