



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Winnipeg, Manitoba, August 29, 2017

Sentencing of Leo McCaughan, former business manager of Saint-Bernadette Parish in the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface, at 820 Cottonwood Drive, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Archdiocese is deeply saddened by the events and circumstances that have led to the arrest and sentencing of Leo McCaughan. What Mr. McCaughan did was wrong and has caused significant harm. Still, we accept what the legal system has determined as an appropriate response.

The Archdiocese and the parish of St. Bernadette wish to express their gratitude and thanks to the Winnipeg Police Service and the Department of Criminal Property Forfeiture Civil Law Division at Manitoba Justice for their efficiency and good work in helping recover the majority of funds that have been stolen and embezzled.

We are aware that in this current process certain statements were made respecting Father Fred Olds, former pastor of the parishes of St. Timothy and St. Bernadette in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. We make no comment at all on these statements, but note that certain allegations against Fr. Fred Olds had earlier been brought forward to us, in approximately July of 2016. We can say that these earlier allegations did not involve minors.

As a result of these earlier allegations, the Archdiocese immediately engaged a third party for a preliminary enquiry. The process of discovery is ongoing and we have not yet conclusively determined what has taken place. We continue the search for the whole truth but do emphasize that Fr. Fred Olds is presumed innocent until proven otherwise.

Still, and in accordance with Canon law and diocesan protocol, as of October 27, 2016, Fr. Fred Olds was:

1. Removed from the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults;
2. Temporarily placed on administrative leave from his office of Pastor of St. Timothy;

3. Temporarily restricted in his faculties such that he is not to exercise public ministry in the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. He may, however, continue to celebrate the Eucharist privately within his own home.

These actions were taken pending review and direction by the Holy See (Vatican) as to the appropriate final course of action. The Archdiocese remains committed to taking all necessary steps to address things in a manner which is fair and appropriate for all concerned.

In any situation where individuals may have endured suffering, the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface stands in solidarity with them and strives to be an instrument of compassion, reconciliation and healing for all.

For more information:

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