



Office of the Archbishop
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2030
312.534.8230
archchicago.org

January 12, 2019

Dear parishioners, families, staff and friends of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Academy,

I write to share some difficult news about your pastor, Father Patrick Lee. I have asked Father Lee to step aside from ministry following receipt this week by the Archdiocese of Chicago of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor in 1979 while he was assigned to Saint Christopher Parish in Midlothian. The allegation was received by the Archdiocesan Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review. In keeping with our child protection policies, the allegation was reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Cook County State's Attorney. The person making the allegation has been offered the services of our Victim Assistance Ministry. The archdiocese has begun its investigation of this matter. I have asked that Father Lee live away from the parish while the matter is investigated.

I have appointed Father Larry Lisowski, pastor of Immaculate Conception St. Joseph Parish, as administrator of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, effective immediately. He comes to you with extensive pastoral leadership experience and a sincere commitment to serve you. He will work closely with Bishop Mark Bartosic to ensure that the spiritual, pastoral and administrative services of your parish and school continue without interruption. Also, today and in the days and weeks ahead, members of the archdiocese's Office for the Protection of Children and Youth will be available to answer any questions you may have and provide you with support during this challenging time.

It is crucial that you know nothing is more important than the welfare of the children entrusted to our care. 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