

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — Monday, April 27, 2020

The Diocesan Safe Environment Review Board has determined that an allegation of inappropriate physical/sexual misconduct involving Fr. Gary Carr meets the criteria for publication as it satisfies the prevailing standard of Semblance of Truth.

The allegation involves a male, now an adult, who recently reported that nearly 30 years ago, when he was then between the age of 10-13 years old, Fr. Carr made inappropriate physical/sexual contact with him. This report has been forwarded to the Stoddard County Prosecuting Attorney, the jurisdiction where the incident is alleged to have occurred.

Fr. Gary Carr was born in 1954 in St. Louis, MO. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau in 1982 by then-Bishop Bernard F. Law. Father Carr was placed on Administrative Leave and restricted in his priestly ministry by Bishop James V. Johnston in 2008. Father Carr resides in St. Louis.

Pastoral appointments for Fr. Gary Carr:

1981—Deacon, St. Mary Parish, Joplin, MO
Dec., 1982—Associate Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Springfield, MO
Dec., 1983—Leave of Absence, reasons of health
Aug., 1985—Part-time Associate Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Joplin, MO; Full-time Teacher, Joplin Area Catholic Schools
Feb., 1987—Associate Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish, Webb City, MO; Full-time Teacher, St. Peter Middle School, Joplin
Aug., 1987—Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Advance, MO; St. Anthony Mission Church, Advance, MO
Aug., 1988—Leave of Absence, reasons of health
Aug., 1989—Pastor, St. Teresa Parish, Glennonville, MO; St. Ann Parish, Malden, MO
June, 1990—Leave of Absence, reasons of health
Aug., 1991—Priest in Residence, Sacred Heart Parish, Poplar Bluff, MO;
Full-time Teacher, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Poplar Bluff
Aug., 1993—Priest in Residence and Director of Religious Education (DRE), St. Henry Parish, Charleston, MO; Principal, St. Henry Catholic School, Charleston
Aug., 1996—Pastor, St. Mark Parish, Houston, MO; St. John the Baptist Mission Church, Licking, MO;
St. Vincent de Paul Mission Church, Roby, MO
Aug., 1997—Principal, Holy Name Catholic School, Ketchikan, Alaska
Aug., 1999—Pastor, St. Mary Parish, West Plains, MO; Sacred Heart Mission Church, Thayer, MO;
Principal, of St. Mary Catholic School, West Plains
Aug., 2001—Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Billings, MO; Principal, St. Lawrence Catholic School, Monett, MO
Aug., 2004—Leave of Absence, reasons of health, resided in Springfield
Aug., 2005—Health leave, no public ministry, Flagstaff, Arizona
Aug., 2006—Health leave, no public ministry, Floyd, New Mexico
July, 2008—Pastoral work/Supply priest associated with the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, St. Francis de Sales Oratory: Traditional Latin Mass (Extraordinary Form) and sacraments
Dec., 2008—Restricted in Ministry, no priestly faculties
Nov., 2019—Retired

Accountability & mandated reporting

The Diocese is committed to an atmosphere of safety for its people, one that is consistent with Catholic moral principles and free from abuse, harassment, discrimination, and violence, with respect to canon law, state and federal laws, and diocesan policies. If you or someone you know has been harmed by anyone working or volunteering within the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, no matter how long ago, we want to provide healing resources to you and your family and the opportunity to be reconciled with you.

Report suspicions of abuse

If you suspect a child is in imminent danger of abuse, please call 911 immediately. Anyone who knows or suspects the abuse of minors or vulnerable adults should contact the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-392-3738 or the Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-392-0210 and/or local law enforcement. Anyone who may have information regarding an allegation or any other such concerns are urged to contact law enforcement and the Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection, (417) 866-0841, or Email childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org. Persons may also document an allegation through the secure diocesan Web-based “TIPS” reporting portal (see www.dioscg.org and look for “TIPS” link).

The Safe Environment Procedures for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau and relevant policies related to keeping our children and adults safe, which includes training requirements and background screenings, are available for review under the Child and Youth Protection ministry tab on the diocesan Website at www.dioscg.org.



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