



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Tony DeGol

Secretary for Communications

925 S. Logan Boulevard

Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Telephone: (814) 695-5579

Facsimile: (814) 696-9516

Cell: (814) 937-1418

E-mail: tdegol@dioceseaj.org

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Bishop Appoints New Diocesan Review Board Members

(HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA) – Bishop Mark Bartchak has announced the appointment of an entirely new membership for the Diocesan Review Board. The group assists in the assessment of allegations of sexual abuse of minors and a cleric's suitability for ministry. The new members are:

- Rev. Leo F. Arnone
- Joyce Cunningham
- Joseph Grappone
- Todd Mahalko
- Robert Skelly
- Brent Stoltzfus
- Rev. Miles Zdinak

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth, every diocese is to have such a Review Board in which the majority of its members are Catholic lay persons not employed by the diocese. The Review Board is a confidential consultative body. In the interest of providing objectivity and transparency, two of the Review Board members are from other Christian churches.

All of the newly-appointed members were recommended to the Bishop because of their personal integrity, expertise, and experience, which includes pastoral care, education of children, safe environment for children and young people, psychological care and treatment of sexual abuse of minors, and law enforcement.

Members of the Review Board have been appointed for a term of five years, which can be renewed. Bishop Bartchak is grateful for their willingness to assist in this important work.

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown remains committed to the safety and protection of all children and youth. Anyone with information about sexual abuse is urged to contact law enforcement immediately. Information may also be reported to the PA Child Hotline at 1-800-932-0313.