



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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March 13, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY

Diocesan Priest Placed on Leave

(HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA) – The Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, has placed Monsignor Robert C. Mazur on leave from public ministry. This comes as part of an ongoing investigation into alleged misconduct involving a minor, which occurred years ago. This matter is reported to law enforcement.

Monsignor Mazur, 68, is a native of Cresson. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in 1976. Monsignor Mazur has served as Rector of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona since 1995. In addition to his duties at the Cathedral, he has also served as Administrator of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Altoona since 2015. While on leave, Monsignor Mazur will not be permitted to function as a priest, and he will reside at a place where he will not have contact with children.

The Very Rev. Alan E. Thomas, Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Bellwood and Vicar General of the Diocese, will serve as Administrator of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Fatima. He will continue as Pastor of Saint Joseph and Vicar General. Assistance from additional priests is being arranged to provide for pastoral care at the Cathedral and Our Lady of Fatima.

“My thoughts and prayers are with all survivors of sexual abuse and their loved ones,” said Bishop Bartchak. “I assure the faithful of Altoona-Johnstown that I remain committed to protecting children, to supporting those who have been harmed, and to helping our diocese find healing and peace.”

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown urges anyone with information about misconduct involving children to report it to law enforcement immediately. Information may also be reported to the Pennsylvania ChildLine at 1-800-932-0313.