



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Diocesan Priest Placed on Leave

(ALTOONA, PA) – The Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, has placed Reverend Matthew E. Misurda, Pastor of Saint Clare of Assisi Parish in Johnstown, on leave from public ministry following accusations of sexual misconduct involving minors. The alleged incidents date back to the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The accusations against Father Misurda have been reported to civil authorities, and the diocese urges anyone with information about child sexual abuse to report it to law enforcement.

Father Misurda, 67, was born in Johnstown and ordained a priest in 1977. He served at various parishes throughout the diocese, and he was appointed Pastor of Saint Clare of Assisi in 2012. While he is on leave, Father Misurda is not permitted to function publicly as a priest.