



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 David R. Rizzo, Administrator of Saint Augustine Parish in Dysart and Saint Monica Parish in Chest Springs, on leave from public ministry following an accusation of sexual misconduct involving a minor. The alleged incident, which dates back several years, has been reported to civil authorities.

Father Rizzo, 47, was ordained a priest in 1999. He was appointed Administrator of Saint Augustine and Saint Monica in 2018. While on leave, Father Rizzo is not permitted to function publicly as a priest.

Anyone with information about child sexual abuse is urged to report it to law enforcement.