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## **Diocese of Toledo Announces Decision Regarding Father Nelson Beaver**

The Diocese of Toledo is announcing today a decision regarding Father Nelson Beaver, who was placed on administrative leave in October 2018 having received an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor dating back over 25 years. Three other allegations of sexual abuse of a minor from a similar time period were subsequently made against Father Beaver.

According to diocesan policy, the allegations were reported to county prosecutors in Huron, Lucas and Williams counties where the alleged abuse took place. Only after all of the prosecutors determined that they would not pursue the allegations (July, 2019), was the diocese free to conduct its own investigation. During the diocesan investigation, the fourth allegation came to light.

Once the diocesan investigation was completed, **the Diocesan Review Board thoroughly examined the matter, found all four allegations to be substantiated and voted unanimously that Father Beaver is not suitable for priestly ministry. Bishop Daniel Thomas has accepted the Review Board's recommendation.** Father Nelson Beaver remains on administrative leave and his case will be presented to the Holy See, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in Rome, for their review and final determination.

In accordance with the Diocese of Toledo [Policy for the Protection of Minors and Young People](#), while on administrative leave, Father Beaver cannot exercise public priestly ministry, administer any of the Sacraments, wear clerical attire or present himself as a priest.

The Diocese has offered pastoral care and professional counselling to each of the victims.

This weekend, out of pastoral care for the faithful, Bishop Thomas is making the announcement of this decision at the two parishes where Father Beaver most recently served as pastor. In addition, counselors are being made available after all weekend Masses for those in need of

support. A similar announcement is also being made this weekend by the pastors in the parishes where the allegations originated.

The Diocese of Toledo remains vigilant in ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people, as well as ensuring the dignity and integrity of the priesthood. The Diocese of Toledo asks for your continued prayers for all those involved.

Any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, staff member or volunteer affiliated with the Diocese of Toledo should first be reported to local law enforcement where the abuse is alleged to have occurred. Please also report any such allegation to the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 419-214-4880.

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