



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## DIocese OF YOUNGSTOWN

October 7, 2011

Sts. Philip and James Parish Community  
412 High Street, N.W.  
Canal Fulton, OH 44614

Dear Parishioners of Sts. Philip and James Parish,

I write to you today about a deeply troubling matter. As a result of a newly reported allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor more than 30 years ago at St. Edward Parish in Youngstown, I have placed your pastor, Father John Warner, on administrative leave, effective immediately. The diocese has reported the allegation to the appropriate civil authorities.

In accordance with the *Diocese of Youngstown Child Protection Policy*, the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the *Essential Norms* from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the allegation was reported to the independent, predominantly lay Diocesan Review Board. Although Father Warner denied the allegation, after a thorough investigation, the Review Board concluded that the allegation was credible and recommended that I place Father Warner on administrative leave.

At my request, Father Warner resigned as pastor of Sts. Philip & James Parish. As a priest on administrative leave, he may not publicly celebrate the sacraments, wear clerical attire, or present himself as a priest in good standing.

The reality of sexual abuse of minors in any setting, but most especially in the Catholic Church, causes all of us disappointment, sadness and deep hurt. I ask you to join me in praying for all people in need of the Lord's peace and healing at this time: for the individual who brought this concern to the diocese, for all those affected by the horror of sexual abuse, and for Father Warner.

I encourage anyone who has experienced sexual abuse by clergy or others associated with the Church to notify civil authorities and to contact the diocesan victim assistance coordinator, Nancy Yuhasz, at 330-744-8451.

Please know that I am with you as a parish community during this painful time. I have asked Fr. John Jerek, Vicar for Clergy, to be with you this weekend and assist the members of your parish staff in the days ahead. As soon as my schedule permits, I will visit with your parish personally. In the meantime, please be assured of my prayers for your well-being and peace.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George V. Murry, S.J.  
Bishop of Youngstown