



CHURCH OF NOTRE DAME

July 7, 2019

Dear Parishioners of Notre Dame Parish,

As I have discussed with you over the course of the last several months, about seven years ago there were allegations brought against me of inappropriate conduct with minors. These allegations stemmed from my time as an educator. In the past, I cooperated with the investigation into these allegations, which included the District Attorney's office, outside forensic investigators, and a thorough examination by the archdiocesan lay review board; at the conclusion of all this, I was exonerated and returned to ministry.

Last week, an attorney held a press conference in which I was again alleged to have acted inappropriately with minors years ago. You may have seen some news reports about this. I repeat my denial of these allegations, and promise to once again cooperate with the archdiocese in its investigation.

However, after consultation with Cardinal Dolan, and for the good of you parishioners, the parish, and the Church, I have decided to step away from my role as Pastor here at Notre Dame, and will not be publicly exercising any priestly ministry while this matter is being reviewed. I am sorry that you have to endure this troubling time, and deeply regret any pain this may cause you.

I ask for your prayers for those who have made these allegations, for all those who have endured any form of sexual abuse, and, please, for me as well, that I may be cleared of these charges and return to serving you as your pastor. You will be in my prayers as well.

Faithfully

J. N. P.

Monsignor John Paddack