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Statements

Letter from Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, on Father David Ryan

July 29, 2025

The Archdiocese of Chicago distributed the following letter to the community of St. Francis De Sales Parish:

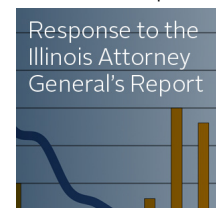
Dear St. Francis de Sales Parish Family,

It is with great difficulty that I write to share news about your pastor, Father David Ryan. The Archdiocese has received an allegation against Father Ryan of sexual abuse of a minor when he was on the staff at Maryville Academy approximately 30 years ago.

While I recognize that your parish and Father Ryan have past experience with our processes for handling allegations, the archdiocese must take seriously the obligation to investigate all allegations, including this one. Accordingly, Father Ryan has agreed to abide by my request to remain out of ministry and refrain from all parish and school activities until that work is complete. At the same time, you should know that he strenuously denies this allegation, and states that he has never harmed a child. I have appointed Father Steven Lanza to serve as administrator for your parish until we have a final outcome of this process.

In accordance with our policies the allegation was reported to civil authorities, the person making the allegation was offered the services of our Victim Assistance Ministry, and the archdiocese has begun its investigation, with the presumption that one is innocent until proven otherwise. Only by conducting a thorough and impartial review can we ensure fairness to all concerned. The results of the investigation will be reported to the Independent Review Board, which will then make a recommendation for my decision.

Tweets by
Cardinal Cupich



Our responsibility for the welfare of the children entrusted to our care is of paramount importance to us. The Archdiocese of Chicago encourages anyone who feels they have been sexually abused by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee to come forward. They will be received with dignity and compassion. Complete information about reporting sexual abuse can be found on the archdiocesan website at www.archchicago.org.

In the meantime, as we go through this process together, know that you are in my prayers. We appreciate your patience and will do our best to keep you informed of developments as they occur.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blase Cupich

Archbishop of Chicago

Letter to Parishioners of St. Francis De Sales Parish
(English)

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