



Date: July 19, 2020

From: Very Rev. Brian G. Paulson, S.J., Provincial, Midwest Jesuits

To: Captains of Jesuit Retreat House at Demontreville

Re: Statement Regarding Reverend Patrick McCorkell, S.J.

*I want to share with you the following announcement from Archbishop Hebda which we would please ask you to forward to retreatants and friends of the Jesuit Retreat House in a desire to be transparent with you. Please keep Father McCorkell and all those affected by this situation in your prayers as we await the outcome of this investigation and Archdiocesan processes. We will inform you of the outcomes of these processes when they are concluded.*

Statement from Most Reverend Bernard Hebda, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis:

In May of this year, the Archdiocese received a report from an adult woman that she and an unnamed priest had been sexually involved in recent years. She said that their relationship was psychologically and emotionally abusive to her. Following its protocols, the Archdiocese contacted law enforcement, provided them with the information received, and explained that the Archdiocese would take no action that could interfere with law enforcement's investigative efforts. The Archdiocese has cooperated with law enforcement and has only taken actions with their prior approval.

On the basis of the information provided, the Archdiocese has since concluded that the priest was Father Patrick M. McCorkell, SJ, who has been serving in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis as the Director of the Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Elmo since 2003. When the Archdiocese notified Father McCorkell's religious superiors in the USA Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus of the report, the Archdiocese was told that Father McCorkell had recently self-reported inappropriate conduct involving the same woman who made the report to the Archdiocese. The type of conduct acknowledged by Father McCorkell constitutes a violation of the Code of Conduct for Clergy serving in this Archdiocese. In its review of the matter, however, the Province has concluded that Father McCorkell remains fit to engage in public ministry.

In these situations, Archdiocesan policy is to make its own independent fitness for ministry determination for any Religious priest engaged in ministry in the Archdiocese, taking into consideration the findings of the Religious community. To accomplish this, the Archdiocesan Office for Ministerial Standards conducts its own investigation, if necessary, and presents the matter to the Archdiocesan Ministerial Review Board for a recommendation prior to the Archbishop making his determination of whether to permit the priest to engage in ministry in the Archdiocese. That process is underway. In accordance with the policies of the Archdiocese, until the process is concluded Father McCorkell may not engage in any public ministry within the Archdiocese.