



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Charges laid against Fr. Roland Lanoie, retired priest for the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface who is currently under a decree of Permanent Suspension of Faculties of Sacerdotal Ministry and Removal from Office.

The Archdiocese of Saint Boniface has learned of criminal charges brought against Father Roland Lanoie, a former pastor who has done ministry work in various parishes. The Archdiocese expresses its deep sorrow to the victim who has come forward as well as to his family and to all those who have been affected by these matters. The Archdiocese has been doing and will continue to do all it can to assist the victim.

The Archdiocese began working closely with the victim, the Winnipeg Police as well as Child and Family Services of Winnipeg as soon as the situation was made known to it in December of 2016. Further, the Archdiocese has been closely following its own **Protocol for the Protection of Children & the Vulnerable: *Working Together for a Safe and Respectful Church Environment***. The protocol can be found on the archdiocesan website at: www.archsaintboniface.ca.

Following a preliminary internal investigation of some allegations of sexual abuse which date back 30 years, Archbishop Albert LeGatt met with Fr. Lanoie on January 10, 2017, and accepted his resignation from all ministerial activity in the Archdiocese. Following this, the investigation continued and a preliminary report was prepared by the Archdiocese's investigator. The Diocesan Advisory Committee for a Safe and Respectful Church Environment reviewed the report and recommended a temporary suspension. Hence, on March 10, 2017, Fr. Lanoie was given a Decree of Temporary Suspension and could no longer exercise his public ministry. The internal investigation concluded on June 30, 2017, and a final report was issued. Archbishop LeGatt then wrote to the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to present the case and to request guidance as to the next canonical steps to be taken with Fr. Lanoie. In October of 2017, the Vatican Congregation responded and advised the Archbishop to impose measures that he deemed appropriate and that would also bring healing to the victim. On December 22, 2017, Archbishop LeGatt issued a Decree of Permanent Suspension of Faculties of Priestly Ministry.

Each time the heinous crime of sexual abuse is reported, victims and their families are wounded again, the vast majority of faithful priests bow their heads in shame, and sincere Catholics, Christians and people of good will, experience shock, sorrow, anger and righteous indignation. Every single abuse case involving a minor, no matter when it took place, is wrong

and we must listen attentively and respond compassionately to those who have been victimized and hurt, particularly if the abuser is connected in any way with our Church. The Archdiocese of Saint Boniface stands in solidarity with all victims and endeavours to be an instrument of reconciliation and healing for them.

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