



PRESS RELEASE

Winnipeg, Manitoba, June 25, 2020

For immediate release

Sentencing of Father Roland Lanoie, retired priest for the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface, currently under a decree of Permanent Suspension of Faculties of Sacerdotal Ministry and Removal from Office

The Archdiocese is deeply saddened by the events and circumstances that have led to the arrest and sentencing of Fr. Roland Lanoie, a former pastor of several parishes, and chaplain at Le Petit Séminaire and in hospitals. What Fr. Roland Lanoie did was wrong and has caused significant and lasting harm for his victim. We accept what the legal system today has determined as an appropriate response by sentencing Fr. Lanoie to 15 months in jail followed by two years of supervised probation.

The Archdiocese expresses its profound concern and 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.

For Archbishop Albert LeGatt, the pain caused to the victim by Fr. Lanoie is a source of deep sorrow:

“Like many of you, I am devastated. I began working closely with the victim as soon as Fr. Lanoie’s abuse was made known to me in December of 2016. I was shaken, and heartbroken, by the suffering that the victim endured. To this day, I continue to listen attentively to the victim, and to express my compassion and to share my desire that this person may come to know peace, reconciliation and true healing.”

The Archdiocese began working closely with the victim, the Winnipeg Police as well as Child and Family Services of Winnipeg in December of 2016. Further, the Archdiocese continues to closely follow 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 allegations of sexual abuse which dated back 30 years, Archbishop LeGatt met with Fr. Lanoie on January 10, 2017, and accepted his resignation from all ministerial activity in the Archdiocese. 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. 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 Archdiocese of Saint Boniface stands in solidarity with all victims and strives to be an instrument of reconciliation and healing for them.

It is the desire of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface to be accountable and transparent to the people we serve and to rebuild trust with individuals and society as a whole.

Finally, we ask all the faithful of the Archdiocese to pray for the victim, and for Fr. Roland Lanoie.

For more information:

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