



# The Diocese of Crookston

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*The Chancery*

## **A Statement from Most Rev. Michael Joseph Hoepfner, Bishop of the Diocese of Crookston**

**CROOKSTON, MN – May 3, 2016** – Fr. Patrick Sullivan has been placed on administrative leave as a result of allegations set forth in a civil Complaint that was served on the Diocese on April 29, 2016. In the Complaint, the Plaintiff alleges that, in 2008, Fr. Sullivan engaged in “unpermitted sexual conduct” with the Plaintiff when he was 15 years old. The Diocese is working with local and federal authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into this matter. The Diocese takes these accusations very seriously and prays for a swift and just resolution to this matter.

The Diocese has fully adopted the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (“the Charter”), as promulgated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Diocese of Crookston is committed to the protection of children and the safe environment of our parishes, schools and greater communities. We encourage anyone, or any organization, with information regarding the abuse or exploitation of children or young people to immediately report that information to law enforcement.

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