



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2017**

**Statement from the Diocese of Crookston Regarding Additional Priest Name Disclosures**

The Diocese of Crookston was notified last week that two religious order priests assigned within the Diocese in the 1940s and 1950s were added by St. John's Abbey to its list of men "likely to have offended against minors".

Casimir Plakut was ordained for the Order of St. Benedict in 1938. He died in 1988. Augustine John Strub was ordained for the Order of St. Benedict in 1947. He left the priesthood in the early 1960s and died in 2015.

The Diocese takes any allegation of abuse of a minor very seriously. Plakut and Strub have been added to the list of "priests who have been credibly accused of abuse of a minor" on the Diocese of Crookston's website.

The Diocese works diligently to create an environment where all children are safe. Abuse awareness and prevention training is required annually for all priests, deacons, teachers, faith formation leaders and others who work or volunteer with minors. Those who work or volunteer with minors are also required to undergo periodic background checks and sign the Diocese of Crookston's Code of Conduct for Church Leaders.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual misconduct on the part of Casimir Plakut, Augustine Strub, or any priest, deacon, or individual representing the Diocese of Crookston, its parishes, or its schools, please contact Cindy Hulst, LSW, the diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator at 218-281-7895 (24 hour confidential number).

Bishop Michael Hoeppner asks local Catholics to pray for healing for all victims and survivors of sexual abuse.