

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — Monday, March 18, 2019

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau reports an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor involving Fr. William E. Donovan, deceased (1975). The allegation pertains to a period in 1968. Following procedures outlined in diocesan Safe Environment Policies and Procedures, the Diocese has notified the Dunklin County Prosecuting Attorney. Additionally, pastoral support has been offered to the victim/survivor's family.

Father William Edward Donovan was born in 1930 in Rome, NY. He was ordained a priest in 1955 in St. Louis for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The Diocese of Springfield Cape Girardeau was formed in 1956 from territory that was prior to 1956, part of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Diocese of Kansas City. Father Donovan died Feb. 9, 1975.

Pastoral appointments for Fr. William E. Donovan:

1955—Assistant Pastor, Guardian Angel Parish, Oran, MO;

1958—Assistant Pastor, St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, MO;

1960—Area Director, Catholic Scouting, Cape Girardeau;*

1962—Pastor, St. John Vianney Parish, Mountain View, MO, and Chaplain of Mountain View Memorial Hospital;

1963—Area Director, Catholic Scouting, West Plains, MO;*

1966—Pastor, St. Ann Parish, Malden, MO, and St. Margaret Mary Mission Church, Neelyville, MO (closed in 1986);

1968—Pastor, St. Teresa Parish, Glennonville, MO, and Sacred Heart Mission Church, Wilhelmina, MO (closed in 1978).

1975—Deceased

Accountability & mandated reporting

The Diocese is committed to an atmosphere of safety for its people, one that is consistent with Catholic moral principles and free from abuse, harassment, discrimination, and violence, with respect to canon law, state and federal laws, and diocesan policies. If you or someone you know has been harmed by anyone working or volunteering within the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, no matter how long ago, we want to provide healing resources to you and your family and the opportunity to be reconciled with you. Please:

Report suspicions of abuse

1. Any suspected or known abuse of a minor must first be immediately reported to the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-392-3738 or 844-CAN-TELL; or for suspected or known abuse of vulnerable or eligible adults, the Missouri Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-392- 0210;

2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and;

3. All Church personnel are required to also report to the Diocese violations of The Code of Conduct for Clergy, Employees, and Adult Volunteers Working with Minors to the Director of Child and Youth Protection, William Holtmeyer, Jr., MS, NCC, LPC, CEAP at billholtmeyer@dioscg.org or (417) 866-0841. Persons who wish to document an allegation may also do so through the diocesan Web-based TIPS Online reporting portal (see dioscg.org and look for “TIPS” link).

At the heart of the Catholic Church's concerns are 1) the victim(s)/survivor(s); and 2) a prevailing sense of justice and accountability. The Safe Environment Procedures for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau and relevant policies related to keeping our children and adults safe, which includes training requirements and background screenings, are available for review under the Child and Youth Protection ministry tab on the diocesan Website at www.dioscg.org.

*Amended Oct. 14, 2019



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