

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — Wednesday, February 19, 2020

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau received word this morning that retired Fr. Fred Lutz was arrested by Stoddard County deputies. As you may recall, the Diocese extended full access to its clerical records and actively participated in the recent review of its records by the Missouri Attorney General’s office, which in turn referred three cases to local law enforcement for further review, Fr. Lutz among them. Following its safe environment protocol, the Diocese had previously reported the allegations against Fr. Lutz in Stoddard County to the then-county prosecutor years ago when the allegations were initially made.

The Diocese will continue to participate in this ongoing investigation and so as not to hinder law enforcement in its efforts, the Diocese is unable to further comment at this time.

Please find attached a [press release](#) outlining the ministry history for Fr. Fred Lutz, whose name appears on our [public list](#) of priests against whom allegations of abuse are noted.

The Diocese is committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for all people, most certainly minor children and vulnerable adults. A review of its [Safe Environment Policy and Procedures](#), may be found at the previous link.

The Diocese encourages anyone who suspects or knows of any abuse of minors or vulnerable adults to immediately report to law enforcement and the respective hotlines: the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-392-3738; the Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-392-0210.



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