



Faith Community of St. Sabina

1210 West St. Sabina (78th) Place • Chicago, Illinois 60620 • Phone (773) 483-4300 • Fax (773) 483-7583

www.saintsabina.org

Cabinet and Community Statement in support of Fr. Michael L. Pflieger January 25, 2021

First and foremost, on behalf of the entire St. Sabina Pastoral Staff, Parish Council, and congregational family, I wish to communicate our unequivocal and unwavering support for our pastor, our leader and our friend, Father Michael L. Pflieger. During his 45-year tenure at The Faith Community of St. Sabina, Fr. Pflieger has been consistent and his character and reputation has never been questioned. He has been a voice to the voiceless and has unashamedly spoken out against the city and even at times, against the Archdiocese. His critique against violence, racism, neglect of the poor and even the role of women in the church has resulted in a myriad of enemies in government, church, and general public—but that has never stopped his ministry to the least of these.

Last night Father Pflieger's accuser along with a sibling spoke to Channel 2 news to further their claim of sexual assault that allegedly happened more than 45 years ago. The interview was the result of two (2) brothers being flown in from Texas by their lawyer to discuss an incident that they claim that neither of them had ever discussed with each other or anyone else throughout a more than 45-year timeframe. Their allegations were also preceded by a handwritten letter mailed to Fr. Pflieger, that requested a \$20,000 payment. While this may or may not be illegal, this request certainly seems like extortion.

As a cabinet, congregation, and community, we will not allow these malicious allegations to deter the work of St. Sabina Church, the programs to our community or our efforts to speak truth to power. At the forefront, our faith remains strong, our goals remain crystal clear and our purpose in this community, city and country is to continue to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before our God.

Lastly, we urge the Archdiocese of Chicago to expedite the investigation so that our leader, our pastor, and friend Fr. Pflieger returns to this community to continue the work of faith and justice.