



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

February 12, 2021

Dear Cardinal Cupich,

We appreciated your letter dated February 10, 2021. Thank you for clarifying the process and for joining with us in prayer.

Our concerns for the future of Pastor Pflieger and this faith community are real. We understand that there is a process for this situation however the process is flawed. Accused priests are treated as guilty before proven innocent instead of what the legal system declares. Also, your letter makes it seem as if the investigations of the allegations by the various agencies run consecutively which elongates the process, why would they not be done concurrently? As a byproduct, Saint Sabina's membership has been damaged emotionally and spiritually. We understand that the accusers should be dealt with and treated pastorally but so should The Faith Community of Saint Sabina.

However, there is a definite disconnect between your statement that we are still waiting for civil agencies to conclude their investigations and the information that we know from reliable sources. 1) The Archdiocese has verified to Pastor Pflieger's lawyers that DCFS has closed its case and has determined that the allegations are unfounded. 2) Rev. Michael Knotek has confirmed the same to Pastor Pflieger. 3) DCFS has also directly confirmed to Pastor Pflieger's lawyers that the investigation is closed, and the allegations are unfounded. Further, on January 28, Chicago Tribune columnist Eric Zorn stated, "officials with the Cook County state's attorney's office and the Illinois attorney general's office confirm, Pflieger, 71, cannot be prosecuted based on these allegations."

Although the Archdiocese may not have yet received the final report in writing from DCFS, there is enough evidence to confirm the veracity of the information provided verbally. Additionally, we were told that the Archdiocese, who initiated the case, has not reached out to the Chicago Police Department, the States Attorney, or the Attorney General's Office for any updates or information. It is our understanding that these agencies have not and will not pursue this matter at all. Are there other entities for whom you must wait?

Let us be clear in what we are asking, we do not want special treatment, we do not want you to cut short your investigation. We are asking that you give this investigation all the

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attention that it merits and see it through with urgency. Funding for some of our outreach is being held up while this investigation is taking place, funding which is necessary to continue to do what we do for our community. We understand your asking us to be patient, we ask that you understand that we are fighting for the life of our pastor, church, and ministry.

We are requesting that the Archdiocese move with haste to secure appropriate documentation of known facts. We will continue to respect the process, and it is our sincere hope that the Archdiocese is forthright as it continues. What we rally against are avoidable delays protracting the pain of everyone involved. ***We are asking that the Archdiocesan Independent Review Board have this case on their agenda at the next scheduled meeting on February 20, 2021.***

Sincerely,

St. Sabina Cabinet:

Rev. Thulani Magwaza, Pastor

Dr. Kimberly Lymore, Associate Minister

Leonard Richardson, Deacon

Cory Williams, Assist. to Sr. Pastor

Beverly Morris, Business Manager

Tiffany Brown, Principal, St. Sabina Academy

Jacinta Warnie, Minister of Youth

Courtney Holmon, Director, The Ark

Herman Warr, Director of the Buildings

Lisa Ramsey, Director, Employment Resource Center

Fitzgerald Craan, Director Social Services

Michael Drayton, Minister of Music

Yvonne Plummer, Director Beloved Community

Anthony Lovelace, Church Office Manager

Cheryl Houston, Recording Secretary

Peter Hoy, Director, Sabina/Stein Learning Gardens

Tonia Carr, Chair, St. Sabina Parish Council

April Dumas-Gray, Vice-Chair, St. Sabina Parish Council

LaTanya Crews, Secretary, St. Sabina Parish Council

Alyssia Zepeda, Youth Representative, St. Sabina Parish Council