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April 13, 2021

Reverend Thulani Magwaza  
Administrator, St. Sabina Parish  
1210 West 78<sup>th</sup> Place  
Chicago, IL 60620-3701

sent via email to [tmagwaza@archchicago.org](mailto:tmagwaza@archchicago.org)

Dear Father Magwaza,

Once again this week, there was an organized effort through the St. Sabina website to employ inappropriate and intimidating tactics to put pressure on the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Independent Review Board (IRB) as the case of Father Michael Pfleger is being processed. As you know, the task of the IRB is to advise me on risk to children and fitness for ministry. Only after I receive the feedback from the IRB could I possibly choose to begin a formal canonical process.

Tactics of intimidation, especially those aimed specifically at the IRB, are counter-productive, as they serve only to impede the process. Even more concerning is the tactic used this week to flood the archdiocese's phone lines dedicated to receiving calls from victims and civil authorities. This tactic is offensive and an injustice, as it may discourage those calling to report abuse and seek pastoral care if they cannot get through to our staff. This ploy also obstructs public authorities as they attempt to reach our staff through these phone lines. In short, it serves no one.

Those wishing to express their support for Father Pfleger can readily do so by sending a letter to Moira Reilly, Office of CAIR, P.O. 1979, Chicago, Illinois, 60690-1979 or to [opcy@archchicago.org](mailto:opcy@archchicago.org). All communication will be shared with the IRB.

However, tactics of intimidation that put pressure on individuals seeking only to provide justice and pastoral care will not be tolerated and must immediately cease. If they do not, I am prepared to move the case of Father Pfleger to the Independent Review Board of another diocese, which means the process will have to begin anew.

Please share this letter as you deem necessary. There will be no further warnings.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Chicago