



Faith Community of St. Sabina

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STATEMENT FROM PASTOR MICHAEL PFLEGER

On Friday, I was informed by the Archdiocese that the same lawyer whose clients made unfounded allegations of misconduct against me last year has found a new client to make different allegations against me.

Roughly 16 months ago, I was returned to the church after five months of intensive investigation by the Archdiocese investigators, the Archdiocese Review Board, DCFS and other authorities based on allegations from two brothers represented by the same lawyer. Those allegations were determined to be unfounded and I was able to return to St. Sabina. Unfortunately, the process of the Archdiocese today is that a priest is presumed guilty until proven innocent. Priests are vulnerable targets to anyone at any time. So once again, I have been removed from all public ministry while they investigate again. This is especially difficult since I have worked tirelessly to bring the church back to stability. We have recently set up town hall meetings, health Sundays (vaccines, booster, covid tests, etc.), coat drives, food drives and the list goes on during these busy coming months.

Let me be clear—I am completely innocent of this accusation. While I am confident that the new allegation will also be determined to be unfounded, this process is so unfair and painful to me and to the community I serve. It seems like most of my ministry I have spent fighting to stay a priest and to continue to work for justice, and to serve the good people of St. Sabina's and our community. I cannot express how difficult, disruptive, and painful this process is to me and to those who are close to me.

I know I am a high-profile person, an outspoken person and a controversial person. That has resulted in jealousy, attacks, and hate. Rarely a week goes by where I don't receive some hate mail. I have been arrested and sued. My reputation has been smeared by billboard companies, the alcohol and tobacco industries, drug paraphernalia businesses, the NRA, white supremacists, right wing Christians and the list goes on. Although that is hurtful, I have come to understand that unfortunately, it is part of my life. Despite all that, I have always sought to stand up and fight for what I believe is right, for my community and for my faith wherever I see injustice.

I am asking for your prayers and seeking God's direction for my life and for my future in the Archdiocese of Chicago. I believe there is much more that God has called me to do to build His kingdom, I just need to know where and how.

In the Pursuit of Justice...

Rev. Michael L. Pflieger