



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of
PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Statement regarding allegation against Monsignor Flaherty

Pensacola, FL — On March 21, 2023, the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee received correspondence from an attorney alleging inappropriate contact against a minor by Monsignor James Flaherty, who has been retired and not involved in active ministry for the past four years. The letter claims that the abuse occurred sometime in 2011 or 2012 at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Southwest Pensacola. The Diocese has reported this allegation to authorities and is cooperating with any investigation regarding this matter.

The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee is committed to protecting children, youth and vulnerable adults. Sexual misconduct by church clergy, employees and volunteers violates human dignity and the mission of the Catholic Church. The spiritual well-being of all victims, their families, and others in the community is of the utmost concern to the Diocese.

The Diocese encourages anyone who may have been abused or is aware of abuse to report it so that we may help individuals in the healing process and better ensure the safety of all. Report any concerns or allegations to the authorities by calling local law enforcement or the Florida Department of Children and Families Abuse hotline at 800-962-2873 (800-96ABUSE).

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