

DECREE

In the name of God

On 5 May 2023, I, the undersigned Apostolic Administrator of Dubuque in Iowa, received a complaint against the Reverend Leo P. Riley, a priest of the Diocese of Venice in Florida but who was ordained in 1982 a priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, alleging that he had committed an act of sexual abuse of a minor below the age of eighteen years in violation of canon 1398 §1, 1° CIC 1983 (prior to 8 December 2021, c. 1395 §2 and below the age of sixteen years of age) and the norm of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, article 6, 1°, when he was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Furthermore, the alleged sexual abuse of a minor occurred within the territory of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Thus, in accord with the 1983 Code of Canon Law, canons 1412 and 1717ff, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *Essential Norms*, number 6, and following my initial review of the allegation, after consulting with the Bishop of the Diocese of Venice and canonical counsel, and having heard the Review Board for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, I have found it neither manifestly frivolous nor false. Rather, I have determined that the allegation carries with it the semblance of truth (cf. c. 1717 §1).

Accordingly, I hereby decree that a preliminary investigation be conducted in conformity with the provisions of universal and particular law (cf. cc. 1412 and 1717ff; USCCB *Essential Norms*, n. 6). During this investigation, elements are to be gathered to assist in determining whether or not there is sufficient evidence that the allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by Reverend Leo P. Riley likely did occur, and if so, to what extent he was legally responsible (imputable) for it, and thus whether a penal process should be initiated to discover the truth and, if proven guilty, to impose a penalty.

Furthermore, I hereby appoint Paul Sigwarth, JD, as the investigator, with the necessary authority and power for him to appoint whomever he deems appropriate to assist him in the investigation. Additionally, I hereby appoint Msgr. Thomas Toale, Moderator of the Curia, Archdiocese of Dubuque, as the notary for this process and any process to follow. The investigation will be conducted promptly and objectively. Moreover, the right of all persons to a good reputation will be maintained assiduously throughout the process (cf. c. 220).

Given at the chancery, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2023.



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Most Rev. Richard Pates  
Apostolic Administrator  
Archdiocese of Dubuque



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Janine Idziak, Ph.D.  
Chancellor