



## DIocese OF YOUNGSTOWN

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 7, 2011

St. Edward Parish  
240 Tod Lane  
Youngstown, OH 44504

Dear Parishioners of Saint Edward Parish,

I write to you today about a deeply troubling matter. As a result of a newly reported allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor by Father John Warner more than 30 years ago at your parish, I have placed Father Warner on administrative leave, effective immediately. The diocese has reported the allegation to the appropriate civil authorities.

In accordance with the *Diocese of Youngstown Child Protection Policy*, the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the *Essential Norms* from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the allegation was reported to the independent, predominantly lay Diocesan Review Board. Although Father Warner denied the allegation, after a thorough investigation, the Review Board concluded that the allegation was credible and recommended that I place Fr. Warner on administrative leave.

At my request, Father Warner resigned as pastor of Sts. Philip & James Parish. As a priest on administrative leave, he may not publicly celebrate the sacraments, wear clerical attire, or present himself as a priest in good standing.

The reality of sexual abuse of minors in any setting, but most especially in the Catholic Church, causes all of us disappointment, sadness and deep hurt. I ask you to join me in praying for all people in need of the Lord's peace and healing at this time: for the individual who brought this concern to the diocese, for all those affected by the horror of sexual abuse, and for Father Warner.

If you have any knowledge of anyone who has experienced sexual abuse by clergy or others associated with the Church I encourage you to notify civil authorities and to contact the diocesan victim assistance coordinator, Nancy Yuhasz, at 330-744-8451.

Please know that I am with you as a parish community during this painful time. In the meantime, please be assured of my prayers for your well-being and peace.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George V. Murry, S.J.  
Bishop of Youngstown