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**DIOCESE OF
ROCKFORD**

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PRESS RELEASE

Pope Francis imposes penalties on Local Priest

ROCKFORD--The Vatican Congregation for the Clergy has informed the Diocese of Rockford that Pope Francis has approved its recommendation regarding Father Aaron Brodeski, a priest of the Rockford Diocese since 1998.

The decree was issued as a result of actions committed in early 2014.

The decree states that Father Aaron Brodeski is deprived of the title "Monsignor," and a one year period of prayer and penance shall be imposed upon Father Brodeski. As this is a decision of highest authority of the Catholic Church there is no further appeal or recourse against it. Any subsequent determination about the suitability for ministry of Father Brodeski rests with the local Bishop in accordance with the Church's Canon Law.

Since April of 2014, Father Aaron Brodeski has been out of public ministry because the Diocese of Rockford learned he allegedly exposed himself in a convenience store and its parking lot.

The canonical matter was referred to the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy. After a lengthy examination of the details of the matter and the testimony submitted by witnesses and experts, the Congregation found Father Brodeski to be responsible for these public acts which were judged to be both grave and scandalous. It was further determined that a penalty should be imposed as a result.

The Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy then submitted the matter to Pope Francis who approved the recommendation of the Congregation and made it his own papal act.

The Diocese of Rockford expresses its profound regret to the faithful and to all who have been offended by this incident. It asks for prayers for all involved in this matter.

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About Catholic Diocese of Rockford

Established in 1908, the Diocese of Rockford is comprised of 105 parishes in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, JoDaviess, Kane, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties in Northern Illinois serving a Catholic population of more than 300,000. For more about the Catholic Diocese of Rockford, visit rockforddiocese.org