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**DIOCESE OF
ROCKFORD**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REGARDING CLERGY ABUSE LIST AND JEFF ANDERSON PRESS CONFERENCE

ROCKFORD--Sexual misconduct by clergy, Church personnel, Church leaders and volunteers is contrary to Christian morals, doctrine and Canon Law. It is never acceptable and Bishop David J. Malloy has declared emphatically, that "one case of abuse is one too many."

The Diocese of Rockford remains committed to preventing abuse and remains vigorous in its efforts to educate in the detection, and prevention and reporting of abuse, and to assist victims in healing.

The practice of the Diocese has been to inform the faithful when a priest has been removed from ministry due to a credible allegation of sexual abuse or other inappropriate conduct since before the late 1980s.

In November of 2018, The Diocese of Rockford published a list of priests, deacons and religious order priests who have or have had a substantiated claim against them.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list, and the list covers the time frame of 1908, when this Diocese was established, to the present. An allegation against a priest who had an assignment in this Diocese but belongs to a religious order or other diocese is referred to the religious order or other diocese to which the priest belongs and is under its jurisdiction.

That is our current practice. However, to the extent the Diocese is aware of a substantiated allegation against a religious order priest or priest from another diocese who was assigned in the Diocese of Rockford or, who at any time served within the geographical boundaries of this Diocese but was not assigned in this Diocese, the name of that priest is included in this list. The list is not limited to priests, and includes permanent deacons and religious.

That list is available at www.rockforddiocese.org and is updated as necessary.

Mr. Anderson's list released today includes names already disclosed by the Rockford Diocese along with other names previously disclosed publicly but which are not on the Diocese's list of those substantially accused because the accusations either have not been substantiated or are completely without merit. The only name new to the Diocese of Rockford is Ivan Rovira who was a priest of this Diocese for two years. The Rockford Diocese has never received an allegation against Ivan Rovira, and was unaware he was accused in another Diocese until this list was issued today.

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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