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**DIOCESE OF
ROCKFORD**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Priest removed from ministry while investigation takes place

DIOCESE— The Diocese of Rockford was recently informed that Father Matthew DeBlock is under investigation for an allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor, which allegedly occurred while Father DeBlock served at Boylan Central Catholic High School from 2012 to 2014. According to Diocese of Rockford policies, Father DeBlock was immediately removed from all ministry while the investigation by civil and church authorities takes place.

Bishop David Malloy issued a statement Sept. 19 to St. John Neumann Parish, where Father DeBlock was assigned as parochial vicar (associate pastor) as well as to Boylan Central Catholic High School. Statements regarding Father DeBlock's status were also issued to all other parishes and schools where Father DeBlock had been assigned since his ordination as a priest for the diocese in 2008.

Bishop wrote "Accordingly, and in fulfillment of the commitment of the Bishops of the United States articulated in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, Father DeBlock has resigned as parochial vicar at St. John Neumann in St. Charles where he has been assigned, and he has been prohibited from engaging in ministry at St. John Neumann (or any other parish/school/diocesan entity) while this investigation is underway. While all persons are innocent until proven guilty, this action is necessary to fulfill our promise to protect all those in our care. We will provide updates on this matter as more information becomes available subject to our ability to do so during an ongoing investigation."

The Rockford Diocese reminds the public that if you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual abuse by an employee or member of the clergy of the Diocese of Rockford, please report the matter to law enforcement in the county in which the conduct occurred and then please call the Diocese's hotline number at 815-293-7540.

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