

# Archdiocese of Detroit

## Office of Public Relations

### **REGARDING THE SENTENCING OF FORMER PRIEST HARRY BENJAMIN...**

*On Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney announced the resolution of a sexual abuse case against a former priest who had ministered in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Harry Benjamin. Archdiocesan Director of Communications, Ned McGrath, issued the following statement:*

“In 1989, the complaint against Harry Benjamin was acted on by the Archdiocese of Detroit; he was removed from priestly ministry and subsequently laicized. The information involving this former priest was reported to civil authorities last year when the archdiocese entered into a voluntary agreement with the prosecuting attorneys of southeastern Michigan to report claims of sexual abuse of minors by members of the clergy. The archdiocese cooperated with civil authorities in this matter and respects the results of the process that followed. And while there is a resolution of the case at hand, the archdiocese recognizes this is a sad and difficult time for everyone involved.”

Ned McGrath  
Director of Communications  
January 28, 2003

As a point of information, Harry Benjamin, 62, was ordained in 1968 for Detroit and dispensed, at his request, from the obligations of the ministry (laicized - pronounced *lay-Ah-sized*) in 1992 following complaints of sexual abuse addressed by the archdiocese in late 1989 under its 1988 sexual misconduct policy. He is properly referred to as a *former priest* or a *resigned priest*.

The Toll-Free Victim Assistance Line for the Archdiocese of Detroit is 866.343.8055. For additional information, check [aodonline.org](http://aodonline.org).

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