

Archdiocese of Detroit / News Advisory

Regarding Fr. William Brennan...

Effective Tuesday, March 4th, Fr. William Brennan, 75, has been placed on an administrative leave of absence and restricted from any public ministry in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Fr. Brennan has resigned as pastor of St. Sebastian Parish in Dearborn Heights and, exercising an option available to him, he has been granted senior priest (retired) status.

The Archdiocesan Review Board has deemed substantive allegations of sexual misconduct with minors involving Fr. Brennan dating back to the early years of his ministry. Initial complaints were first brought forward to the archdiocese last year, but there was insufficient information to proceed with any action at that time.

The complaints involving Fr. Brennan were shared with civil authorities, who reported their findings to the archdiocese. With that information and further inquiry on its part, the Review Board found the complaints to be of sufficient substance to require the placement of a temporary restriction on Fr. Brennan's service as a priest until these matters have been resolved. Fr. Brennan has cooperated fully in this process.

Fr. John Child has been named Temporary Administrator of St. Sebastian Parish.

Released by Archdiocesan Communications
Wednesday, March 5th, 2003

*****A picture of Fr. Brennan, as well as a copy of this news advisory, is available on the Internet at homepage.mac.com/nedmcgrath.**

Biographical Information:

Ordained 1953

1953 Associate Pastor, St. Lawrence Parish, Utica
1958 Associate Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Adrian
1959 Graduate Study, Ponce, Puerto Rico
1960 Associate Pastor, St. Boniface Parish, Detroit
1963 Associate Pastor, St. Christine Parish, Detroit
1964 Associate Pastor, St. Luke Parish, Detroit
1968 Pastor, St. Margaret Mary Parish, Detroit
1970 Pastor, St. Sebastian Parish, Dearborn Heights

March, 2003 Resigned as Pastor of St. Sebastian Parish, Dearborn Heights
Granted Senior Priest (Retired) Status; Leave of Absence

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