



September 13, 2023

Diocese of Reno – Statement of Bishop Mueggenborg regarding Fr. Patrick Klekas

In the fall of 2022, I received an allegation of an inappropriate consensual relationship between Fr. Klekas and an adult woman that occurred in 2020 when Fr. Klekas was serving as associate pastor at St. Albert the Great parish.

Fr. Klekas acknowledged his conduct and agreed to comply with our procedures for dealing with breaches of priestly vows. In accordance with diocesan procedures, I suspended Fr. Klekas from ministry and directed him to attend a counseling program, which he completed in April 2023.

At about the same time, I offered professional counseling to the woman and her husband, which was accepted.

On May 12, 2023, with the facts that I had in my possession, I issued a statement regarding my intention of returning Fr. Klekas to ministry as of July 2023.

My decision was reached after review and consideration of statements of the parties, other written materials documenting the relationship (including approximately 1,300 pages of text messages), a report and conclusions of the professional therapists at the counseling center, and the recommendation of our diocesan Adult Misconduct Review Board.

In June 2023, upon learning that a criminal complaint had been filed relating to the matter with local law enforcement, I suspended Fr. Klekas' return to ministry. The Diocese fully cooperated with the criminal investigation, and I recently learned that the investigator concluded that no criminal activity occurred.

In August 2023, after considering additional facts and information and the further recommendations of the Adult Misconduct Review Board, I determined Fr. Klekas would not be returned to ministry. He has been placed on leave from all ministry.

With the authority vested in me as Bishop, I have taken the additional steps of removing all of his faculties (authority) to function as a priest and rescinded his previous re-assignment in the Diocese of Reno.

The actions I have taken on behalf of the Diocese were guided by the judgement of our Adult Misconduct Review Board, which is comprised of lay professionals who review cases of misconduct by clergy or other church personnel and who provide recommendations based on their respective areas of professional expertise.

I am grateful to the Board for its time and effort in this matter.