

Press Release

July 21, 2020

Statement from the Archdiocese of St. John's

Re: Reverend Peter Power

Earlier today we received information that following an investigation by the Placentia RCMP, three Criminal Code charges have been made against Reverend Peter Power, a 78-year-old Roman Catholic priest of the Archdiocese of Toronto presently living in retirement in Newfoundland.

Any allegation of improper conduct by a priest is an extremely serious matter. The Archdiocese has cooperated fully with the local authorities and we ask any member of the public with information on this case to come forward to assist the RCMP with their investigation.

It would be inappropriate for Diocesan officials to comment on the specifics of this case as it is presently before the court. However, we must be clear in stating that any form of misconduct by personnel of the Catholic Church is unacceptable.

Father Power retired from pastoral ministry in the Archdiocese of Toronto in 2010. Since that time, he has lived in retirement in the Archdiocese of St. John's and has on occasion assisted a local parish with pastoral ministry. Due to the seriousness of the charges now before the court, Father Power's priestly faculties have been suspended pending the outcome of the court proceedings.

The safety of all persons, especially children, youth and vulnerable adults, is essential. For this reason, the Archdiocese has developed extensive procedures to foster a safe environment for all members of our faith community and developed a clear policy and procedure for replying to allegations of sexual misconduct. Our primary concern is for those who have suffered sexual abuse or sexual assault