

May 18, 2020

Notice of priest no longer in the clerical state and addition of his name to Clergy List

The Holy See has notified the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland that the request of James R. McGonegal to be removed from the clerical state has been granted. McGonegal was placed on administrative leave and removed from ministry in 2014 as the result of criminal indictments following his arrest in a sexual solicitation incident. Subsequently, he sought removal from the clerical state. Removal from the clerical state means that in accord with canon law James R. McGonegal is unable to function as a priest in any capacity, anywhere.

In addition, McGonegal, who has been listed on the diocese's website as a cleric on administrative leave as a result of an allegation of child sexual abuse, is being placed on the list of clerics against whom has been made a substantiated allegation of child sexual abuse. This list can be found at <https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/healing/list-of-clergy>.

The Diocese of Cleveland remains committed to creating a safe environment for children and fostering healing for those who have experienced abuse. Any person with information, or just seeking help, can reach the diocesan confidential response line by phone at 216-334-2999 or online via [email](#).