

For Immediate Release
Thursday, December 5, 2019

Statement from the Diocese of Cleveland

The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland was made aware this afternoon that law enforcement associated with the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force arrived at St. Joseph Parish in Strongsville this morning with a warrant to search the living and office spaces of parish parochial vicar Rev. Robert McWilliams for items related to possible crimes committed in Geauga County. Law enforcement conducted its search and seized various electronic devices, including laptop computers, a cell phone, and an iPad associated with or belonging to Fr. McWilliams. As a result of search, Fr. McWilliams was taken into custody. After being notified of the matter, the diocese immediately placed Fr. McWilliams on administrative leave pending the outcome of this matter. St. Joseph Parish, Sts. Joseph and John School and the Diocese of Cleveland are committed to protecting children and stand ready to cooperate with law enforcement to assist in the investigation.