

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — Monday, October 8, 2018

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau reports an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor involving Msgr. John J. Rynish, deceased (2001). The allegation pertains to a period in the early 1970s. Following procedures outlined in diocesan Safe Environment Policies and Procedures, the Diocese has notified civil authorities of the allegation, including Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect and the Greene County Prosecuting Attorney. Additionally, pastoral support is being offered to the victim's family.

Msgr. Rynish was born in Kansas City, MO, and ordained a priest in 1943 for the Diocese of Kansas City. The Diocese of Springfield Cape Girardeau was formed in 1956 from territory that was prior to 1956, part of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Diocese of Kansas City.

Msgr. Rynish retired from active ministry in 1993. He died Sept. 23, 2001.

Pastoral appointments for Msgr. John J. Rynish

1943—Assistant Pastor, Holy Cross Parish, Kansas City, MO
1950—Assistant Pastor, St. Wenceslaus Parish, Karlin, MO
1952—Administrator, Sacred Heart Parish, Bolivar, MO, and
St. William Parish, Buffalo, MO
1953—Assistant Pastor, St. Stephen Parish, Kansas City, MO
1954—Pastor, St. Canera Parish, Neosho, MO
1960—Pastor, St. Eustachius Parish, Portageville, MO
1965—Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Springfield, MO
1969—Elected Diocesan Administrator at departure
of then-Bishop Ignatius Strecker until April 6, 1970
1973—Elected Diocesan Administrator at departure
of then-Bishop William Baum until Dec. 5, 1973
1977—Pastor, St. Mary Parish, Pierce City, MO
1979—Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Billings, MO
1993—Retired
2001—Deceased

Assistance Provided to Victims

The Diocese will reach out to every person who has been the victim/survivor of sexual abuse as a minor by anyone acting in the name of the Church, whether the abuse was recent or occurred many years in the past. This outreach will include provision of counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups, and other social services agreed upon by the victim and the Diocese. The Assistance Coordinator will aid in the immediate pastoral care of persons who claim to have been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other diocesan personnel.

Persons who wish to document an allegation may do so by calling the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-392-3738 or 844-CAN-TELL; or contact William Holtmeyer, Jr., MS, NCC, LPC, CEAP, Director of Child and Youth Protection, (417) 866-0841, or billholtmeyer@dioscg.org; or Victim Assistance Coordinator Judy St. John, LPC, NCC, (573) 587-3139, or vacl@dioscg.org; or through the diocesan Web-based TIPS Online reporting portal (see dioscg.org and look for "TIPS" link).

The Safe Environment Policies for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau are available by logging on to the diocesan Website at www.dioscg.org under the **Child and Youth Protection** ministry tab.



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