

Stewardship - A Way of Life

September 24, 2016

Dear Parishioners:

It has been several weeks since a civil claim was filed against Msgr. Lawrence McGovern containing allegations of sexual harassment. Due to the nature of the allegations made, Msgr. McGovern was placed on administrative leave pending a full and complete investigation.

There is no new information to report at this time. The matter is being addressed by law enforcement and attorneys for the plaintiff, the defendant, the insurance company and the parish.

I ask everyone in the community to please be patient and charitable as the process unfolds. Unfortunately, it is not unusual in such circumstances for rumors and innuendos to circulate in the community. When this happens it harms both individuals and the entire community

From a legal perspective, the law prohibits false statements of fact that harm another's reputation. When spoken such statements are known as libel. When written they are known as slander. The person against whom such statements are made has a right to seek redress against anyone who has made or repeated such a false statement for the harm they have suffered.

It is my prayer and my hope that the grace of God and the strength we have built as a community will sustain us.

Fr. Joe Maghinay
Parochial Administrator, pro tem