



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

320 CATHEDRAL STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201 • 410-547-5437 • FAX: 410-547-8234

April 18, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with regret that I write to inform you that the Archdiocese has learned of an allegation of child sexual abuse against Father Martin Demek, pastor of Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Baltimore. The alleged abuse began in about 1989 when the victim was approximately 11 years old. The incidents allegedly occurred at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Manchester.

It is important for you to know that this allegation, which we received earlier this year, was immediately reported to civil authorities who began an investigation. The Archdiocese has fully cooperated with civil authorities' who have now given us permission to begin our own investigation. Pursuant to Archdiocesan policy, we are removing Father Demek's faculties to function as a priest and suspending him from ministry, pending the outcome of its investigation. Father Demek denies the allegation and is cooperating with the Archdiocese investigation.

Today, representatives from the Archdiocese met with parishioners and staff at Corpus Christi to inform them of the allegations and to answer questions. The Archdiocese is working with the parish and staff to provide pastoral care to the community. In accordance with Archdiocesan policy, the Archdiocese has offered counseling assistance to the alleged victim and has arranged for care for Father Demek. This matter is in an early stage of investigation and thus no determination of credibility has been made by the Archdiocese at this time. However, the Archdiocese has met with the parish and is providing a statement to the broader community in order to solicit any relevant information as part of its investigation and also in order to fulfill its commitment to open communication with affected communities.

Father Demek was ordained a priest in 1975. He served as Associate Pastor at Our Lady Queen of Peace (1975-1980), St. Thomas Aquinas (1980-1984), and Shrine of the Little Flower (1984-1987). He served as Pastor at St. Bartholomew (1987-1996), St. William of York (1996-2010), and Corpus Christi (2010 - present). He also served as Administrator at Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Perpetual Help (1996).

As you know, the Archdiocese remains committed to protecting children and helping to heal victims of abuse, as we protect the rights of the accused. If you or anyone you know has information concerning child abuse by a priest, employee or volunteer of the Archdiocese, you are urged to contact the Archdiocese's Office of Child and Youth Protection at (866) 417-7469, as well as the appropriate civil authorities.

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Please join me in praying all victims of child abuse and for those who have been impacted by this matter including the parishioners of Corpus Christi.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William E. Lori". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore