

# **INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION ON BEHALF OF THE DIOCESE OF LANSING**

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS CONCERNING FR. PATRICK EGAN**

On April 18, 2019, the Diocese of Lansing engaged Honigman to conduct an investigation of Diocesan records concerning allegations of misconduct by Fr. Patrick Egan and the Diocese's handling of such allegations.

Patrick J. Hurford, litigation partner at Honigman LLP and co-chair of the firm's white collar and investigations practice group led the independent investigation. Hurford has extensive investigative experience. He is a former Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan and Trial Attorney for the United States Department of Justice.

In May 2019, Honigman engaged Stout Risius Ross, LLC to assist in the investigation by conducting a forensic review of all Diocese of Lansing documents and records concerning allegations of misconduct by Fr. Patrick Egan.

Stout is an independent financial advisory firm that assists with forensic investigations by using forensic experts to conduct in-depth analyses of data, documents, and other pertinent information. For this forensic review, Stout identified and documented all available and relevant information.

The purpose of the investigation was to uncover and analyze relevant facts to answer the following questions.

- Were there allegations of misconduct concerning Fr. Patrick Egan? And if so, what type of misconduct was reported?
- If misconduct was reported, was there a duty to report under current Diocese of Lansing policies?
- Were current Diocese of Lansing policies followed in addressing any allegations of misconduct?
- If there was misconduct under Diocese of Lansing policies, should any discipline have been imposed?

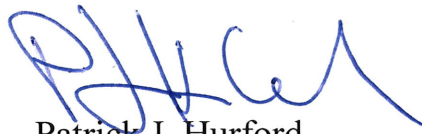
- Were the Diocese of Lansing's public statements concerning the removal of Fr. Patrick Egan accurate?

## Conclusions

There were allegations of misconduct concerning Fr. Egan. These allegations concerned potential sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and improper sexual contact. The allegations did not involve minors.

With respect to the first allegation received by the Diocese in the early 1990s, in violation of current Diocesan policies, the Diocese did not conduct an investigation and no disciplinary action was imposed. In 2003, approximately 12 years after learning of the initial allegation, the Diocese conducted a limited investigation to determine whether the complainant was a minor at the time of the alleged events. The complainant provided the Diocese with information establishing the alleged misconduct occurred when the complainant was approximately 25 years old.

With respect to later allegations received by the Diocese between 2014 and 2017, the Diocese promptly conducted appropriate investigations. As a result, the Diocese first placed appropriate restrictions on Fr. Egan to prevent reoccurrence and retaliation. Eventually, as a result of the investigations, the Diocese revoked Fr. Egan's priestly faculties—essentially removing him from the Diocese of Lansing. Although the Diocese was not under a legal duty to report the allegations to law enforcement because the alleged victims were not minors, the Diocese nevertheless made a report to law enforcement. In addition, public statements made by the Diocese of Lansing concerning Fr. Egan were accurate.



Patrick J. Hurford  
Honigman LLP

Date: October 4, 2019