

9/2003) As you will recall, in May of last year, Father Lee informed you that he had been accused of misconduct, that had occurred decades ago, and which he categorically denied. He stepped down voluntarily so that there would be no cloud over his ministry during the investigation. The District Attorney, the Department of Human Services, the Attorney General and the Diocesan Review Board were all informed. Subsequently, since the investigation was unable to substantiate the claim and Father was returned to ministry.

This past week, new information has been received and thus I have asked that another investigation be undertaken. My decision to ask Father Lee to relinquish his faculties during the investigation is not to be construed as prejudging the outcome of the investigation. It is part of the procedure outlined in the Dallas Charter which is a prudent and necessary precaution pending a fuller investigation and resolution of this matter. If anyone has any information, I encourage you to come forward. Please do not remain silent if you have something to contribute to this investigation. To do this, contact the Chancery or civil authorities.

I realize that this is a very difficult time for you, the parishioners of St. Philips. With me today are members of the Diocesan crisis intervention team who will be available after mass for those who wish to meet with them.

It is with great sadness that I stand before you today and I assure you of my prayers and ask for your prayers for the family members involved, Fr. Lee and the Parish as we work to resolve the issue before us.

God bless you.