

For Immediate Release  
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### **Pastor Will Step Down**

Bishop Joseph J. Gerry, O.S.B. has announced that Fr. Thomas Lee will step down as Pastor of St. Philip, Lyman, pending an investigation of a report of sexual abuse of a minor. During the preliminary investigation, Fr. Lee is restricted from having contact with minors and will have no priestly ministry. Fr. Lee has denied the allegation and the restrictions are procedural, not punitive.

The announcement is being made by Bishop Joseph to parishioners of St. Philip's during this weekend's Masses.

In May of last year, Fr. Lee informed his Parish that he had been accused of misconduct that had reportedly occurred about 20 years ago, which he categorically denied. He stepped down voluntarily during the investigation of those charges. The civil authorities were informed of the charges and subsequently the investigation was unable to substantiate the claims. Fr. Lee was returned to ministry in Lyman in November.

The Bishop re-opened the case this past week when new information was received.

The Diocese encourages anyone who has information on this case to contact the Bishop's office or local law enforcement.