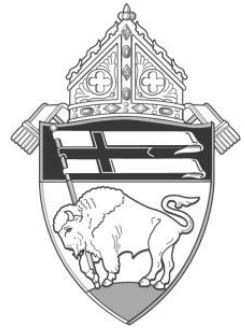

Diocese of Buffalo

Office of Communications



For Immediate Release

Diocese of Buffalo Announces Priest Placed on Administrative Leave

Buffalo, N.Y., February 23, 2023– The Diocese of Buffalo has received a child sexual abuse complaint regarding a retired priest in the diocese. As a result, Bishop Michael W. Fisher has placed Rev. Joseph Vatter on administrative leave as an investigation continues. Prior to being placed on leave, Rev. Vatter was occasionally celebrating Masses at various diocesan churches.

Please note that this administrative leave is for the purpose of investigation and does not imply any determination as to the truth or falsity of the complaint. If you have any information specific to clerical sexual abuse you would like to share, please contact Jackie Joy, our Victim Assistance Coordinator, who may be reached at 716 895-3010.

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