



Statement of Donna M. Morrissey, Spokeswoman, Archdiocese of Boston March 21, 2002

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The Archdiocese of Boston was notified late this afternoon by the media that a lawsuit was filed today reportedly detailing an allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor involving Reverend Monsignor Frederick Ryan, Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Kingston, Massachusetts and Vicar of the Plymouth Vicariate. The Archdiocese of Boston has not received a copy of the lawsuit nor have we received in the past any allegation regarding sexual misconduct with a minor concerning Monsignor Ryan.

The Archdiocese of Boston is attempting to contact both the individuals bringing forth the allegation through their attorney and the accused priest to get a clear and concise understanding of the nature of the allegation. The priest will be informed that while the investigation goes forward he will be placed on an administrative leave.

Our first priority is the protection of minors and applying a zero tolerance policy. At the same time however, we are mindful of the rights of the accused priest and any action taken in the course of our investigation should not be construed as a "conviction" of the priest but an investigation to determine the plausibility of the allegation.

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