



Diocese of
Green Bay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Diocese receives final notification on Radetski case

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Sept. 23, 2017) – Bishop David L. Ricken received notification from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) at the Vatican that Father Paul J. Radetski has been found not guilty of sexual abuse of a minor. Father has been granted senior priest status, and his restrictions from exercising public priestly ministry have been lifted. He will serve the diocese in a limited capacity in his senior priest status.

An allegation first came to light in 2010, at which time Father Radetski was temporarily restricted from the exercise of public priestly ministry. The temporary restrictions have been in force since that time. Following diocesan policy, civil authorities were notified of the allegation against Father Radetski, which he categorically denied.

Following a determination there was evidence supporting the allegation, the Diocese of Green Bay began the canonical penal process. This resulted in a trial utilizing three canon lawyers/judges from outside the diocese who ruled that Father Radetski was not guilty and forwarded their findings to the CDF.

Acknowledging that Father Radetski has been exonerated, Bishop Ricken expresses regret for the long canonical process to resolve the matter. Let us pray for healing and peace for all those involved in these proceedings.

Diocesan policies for keeping children safe are and will continue to be rigorous. The policies include:

- Mandated background checks and abuse prevention training of all staff and volunteers in our parishes, schools and diocesan offices (nearly 40,000 as reported in August 2017).
- Barring from ministry any clergy who have a credible allegation of abuse of a minor against them.
- Mandatory reporting of all credible allegations of abuse to local law enforcement authorities. This has ensured that due process within our legal system takes place. Year after year, the Diocese has demonstrated its compliance with its policies, with national standards, and adherence to state law.
- More information is available on the diocese's website (www.gbdioc.org) under the section titled "Protecting Our Children."

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Who we are: As friends and followers of Jesus, the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is devoted to fostering households and communities of discipleship through the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church. We are missionary disciples striving to lead all people to the Kingdom of God. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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