STATEMENT OF THE DIOCESE OF PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE
Regarding Rev. Gerard McMahon

April 2006

The Diocese of Pensacola Tallahassee was informed on March 30 by the Archdiocese of Boston that one of their archdiocesan priests, Rev. Gerard McMahon, who resided in the Pensacola area, was the subject of criminal charges arising from the alleged abuse of a minor in Foxborough, Massachusetts between 1967 and 1970. That same day, Father McMahon was no longer permitted to perform any priestly ministry within the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Father McMahon has resided in the Pensacola area since his retirement as a military chaplain. While living in the area he has, from time to time, been invited to celebrate Mass and perform other functions as a priest in some parishes in the Pensacola area. He has never been formally assigned to any parish within the diocese.

On the afternoon of March 30th, when the Archdiocese of Boston informed officials of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee that criminal charges had been brought against McMahon, he was immediately instructed to not publicly present himself as a priest or function in any priestly ministry within the diocese, which is standard procedure under the diocese's stated policy, and in full compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Until March 30, the diocese had no awareness of any charges of inappropriate or criminal behavior against Father McMahon. Per our policy, Father McMahon had previously been fingerprinted and background checked by the diocese and no record of criminal activity was indicated.

All priests and pastors of the diocese who had called upon Father McMahon in the past to assist with their parishes were notified of his removal. Consequently, Father McMahon may no longer serve in any priestly capacity in any Catholic institution, function or parish.

The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee regrets that this abuse has occurred and offers to all victims of abuse its prayers and commitment to end such abuse. It further pledges that it will remain faithful to the Charter and do all in its power to provide a safe and nurturing environment for all who are entrusted to its care.

The church encourages anyone who may have been abused by anyone in ministry with the church to report it by calling 850-435-3520 and asking for the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

Addendum from May 2006:

On May 11, 2006, Father McMahon entered a plea of guilty in Dedham Superior Court in Massachusetts. The court's sentence includes the following provisions: life on probation; sex offender evaluation and treatment, as determined by the probation department; registration as a sex offender; remaining free of alcohol and illicit drugs; provision of a DNA sample to authorities; and having no contact with children under 16.