

Crosier priest placed on administrative leave

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(Phoenix, Arizona) -- The Crosier Province of St. Odilia, headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, learned that a claim of sexual abuse against a minor has been registered against one of its members, Fr. Gregory Poser, osc.

The alleged abuse was a single incident that occurred more than 40 years ago in Shoreview, Minnesota, while Fr. Poser was assigned to St. Odilia Parish located within the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. Law enforcement officials have been informed. The Crosiers have not been aware of any other claims of sexual abuse against a minor by Fr. Poser prior to this report.

Fr. Poser was serving as parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish in Onamia, Minnesota, within the Diocese of St. Cloud.

Crosier Prior Provincial Thomas Enneking, osc, has immediately placed Fr. Poser on administrative leave while the investigation is pending. The Crosiers do not tolerate sexual abuse of any kind and have a strict reporting policy in place. They are working closely with Archbishop Bernard Hebda's office.

Fr. Enneking is deeply sorry for the pain and anguish, and he holds the victim in prayer. The Crosier Province will do all that it can to protect anyone from such abuse and assist victims in their healing. Anyone aware of sexual abuse by a Crosier is asked to contact the Crosiers' Victim Assistance Line at 320-248-1563 or Prior Provincial Thomas Enneking, osc, at 602-443-7100.

About the Crosiers:

The Crosiers, officially known as the Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross, were founded in 1210 in modern-day Belgium. For more than 800 years, the priests and brothers have lived a life of community, prayer and service under the Rule of St. Augustine. The Crosiers have two large, vibrant communities in the United States—one in Phoenix, Arizona, and the other in Onamia, Minnesota. The Crosiers gather as a community each day to pray the Liturgy of the Hours and celebrate Eucharist. Members are involved in a wide range of ministries serving the Church and those in need, including parish assistance, retreat work, spiritual direction, elder care, immigrant services and jail ministry. There are more than 350 Crosiers today worldwide serving in the United States, Europe, Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Brazil and Rome.

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