



DIOCESE
OF CHARLOTTE
CHANCERY

**Statement from the Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis,
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte**

December 9, 2019

Dear St. Matthew parishioners,

Late this afternoon, the Diocese of Charlotte placed your pastor Father Patrick Hoare on administrative leave pending investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor about 25 years ago in Pennsylvania, before he entered ministry. The alleged victim, now an adult, reported his allegation to the diocese yesterday and said he has been in touch with police and social services. Father Hoare has denied the allegation.

The Charlotte diocese also has been in touch with police and will cooperate in any investigation. Pending completion, the diocese will refer the allegation to our Lay Review Board for internal investigation and a determination of credibility.

Please understand administrative leave is standard procedure under our policy and does not imply guilt. We do not yet know the facts and have no indication of any issues at St. Matthew Church.

The diocese is committed to providing a safe environment for all people, especially the young and vulnerable. In 2002, the U.S. bishops adopted the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People, which prescribes protocols for responding effectively, appropriately and compassionately to all allegations of abuse of minors by all Church personnel.

Thank you for your continued support, and please join us in praying for God's blessing upon the parish of St. Matthew at this time.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ *Peter J. Jugis*

Most Rev. Bishop Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte