**Statement of the Diocese of Joliet**

**Re: Compensation to priests removed from ministry**

**May 13, 2013**

The Diocese of Joliet does not provide compensation for any priest who is permanently removed from public ministry because of a credible or substantiated allegation of sexual abuse of a minor. Any benefits these priests receive, such as a pension, are mandated by federal, state or canon law.

To assist with the spiritual needs of people, priests routinely offer Mass for specific intentions.  Priests who are removed from public ministry because of sexual abuse of minors may not celebrate Mass in public, but they are not prohibited from doing so privately.  Like all priests, they may offer a Mass for a specific person or cause, and they may receive the small stipend if one is offered, usually $10.

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