

For Immediate Release

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Monroe Pastor voluntarily accepts leave

(SEATTLE) Archbishop Alex J. Brunett has asked Father Michael C. OBrien, Pastor of St. Mary of the Valley Parish in Monroe, to voluntarily accept administrative leave from his duties while a canonical investigation is conducted. Father OBrien agreed to administrative leave following a recent allegation of sexual abuse of a minor occurring in the late 1960s.

Archbishop Brunett took this action in keeping with archdiocesan policy and the National Charter and Norms governing allegations of clergy sexual abuse designed to ensure due process and to protect all parties involved.

“The current investigation will be conducted with due speed to determine the facts surrounding the allegation,” Archbishop Brunett said. “Upon completion of the investigation, I will receive a recommendation from our Archdiocesan Review Board. Based upon the findings, I will either reinstate Father OBrien as pastor or continue his administrative leave pending action by the Vatican.”

Father OBrien was on administrative leave from St. Mary’s Parish in 2004 subsequent to a separate allegation. He returned to parish ministry after the investigation into the earlier allegation failed to substantiate the allegation.

Archbishop Brunett urged anyone who has knowledge of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a member of the clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Archdiocese of Seattle to call the Archdiocesan Hotline at 1-800-446-7762.

For more information, contact: Greg Magnoni 206.382.4862