



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

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March 16, 2020

Update re: Clergy

Dear Priests, Deacons, Parish Life Directors, and Catholic Pastoral Centre Staff:

The following was read at all Masses at Holy Family Cathedral on March 15, 2020.


Fr. Ephraim Mensah: further to the announcement of resignation and retirement, and that he is not fulfilling any ministry in the diocese:

You may recall Fr. Mensah mentioned that he was resigning because of a circumstance that had developed for him in his ministry. I am saddened to tell you that after our internal investigation it was determined that Fr. Mensah's actions amounted to "serious misconduct." His actions were a flagrant breach of his vow of chastity to God and the Church and the position of trust he held towards parishioners. His serious misconduct warranted his removal from any priestly ministries. Please note that this misconduct did not involve any children or minors.

Fr. Michael Yaremko: further to the announcement of being without ministry assignment:

It is regrettable that I must inform you of a second matter. Fr. Michael Yaremko has been found to have committed "serious misconduct" pursuant to the Policy and has been without ministry assignment for almost two years. The future of Fr. Yaremko's status has not yet been determined and to respect the privacy of the complainant and the process it is difficult to say anything more at this time. However, I can tell you that Fr. Yaremko's conduct did not involve any children or minors.

I take this opportunity to share the conclusion of my message to the Holy Family Parishioners:

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.

I conclude by reiterating my sorrow to all of you for having to bring these examples of priestly misconduct to your attention. I ask for prayers for the victims affected by this misconduct, and for the grace to find the path to healing and justice. I also ask that we join in an ongoing commitment to accountability and care. It is only with God's grace, and supporting one another and holding the bar high, that we can deal with human failing and sin, and find the way towards wholeness, recovery, and redemption.

Let us hold our entire diocese in prayer at this time.