



## DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

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*Department of Communications*

### Statement from Diocese of Venice Regarding Father Leo Riley, April 25, 2024

In May of last year, the Diocese of Venice learned from the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa, that a new allegation of sexual misconduct had been made against Reverend Leo Riley. The incident in question involved someone who was a minor at the time, and occurred when Father Riley was a priest serving in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Although Father Riley strenuously denied the allegation, maintaining his innocence, in accordance with the Diocese of Venice's Policy for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults, upon learning of the allegation Bishop Dewane immediately placed Father Riley on administrative leave, pending the investigation that was to be conducted by the Archdiocese of Dubuque. On May 17, 2023, Bishop Dewane also sent a letter to parishioners alerting them to the allegation. Father Riley's most recent assignment in the Diocese of Venice was at San Antonio Parish in Port Charlotte.

The Diocese of Venice has just learned that Father Riley has now been arrested. We pray that the Lord of Truth and Light will guide us all in His ways moving forward. We pray, today and always, for the healing of all victims of abuse. May the light of truth and justice alleviate their pain and suffering, and may the Lord grant them healing, and peace.

The Diocese of Venice remains committed to doing all that can reasonably be done to protect children and vulnerable adults. Anyone who believes that he or she has been the victim of sexual misconduct by someone serving in ministry for the Diocese of Venice, or any organization, should contact law enforcement officials. The Diocese of Venice provides a Victim Assistance Coordinator, who can be reached at 941-416-6114.

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