



from the

Office of Communication

DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

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News Release

Diocesan Statement

KALAMAZOO, Mich.: (September 17, 2024): The Diocese of Kalamazoo has received an allegation of inappropriate contact with a minor against Reverend German Perez-Diaz, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford, and Sacred Heart Parish, Bangor. The inappropriate contact is alleged to have occurred in 1999.

Immediately after receiving the allegation, the diocese reported it to the Attorney General's Office and is cooperating with law enforcement.

In accord with diocesan policy, Father Perez-Diaz is cooperating fully with the investigation and is stepping away from public ministry during its duration. Bishop Edward M. Lohse has appointed Reverend Leonel Cartagena as Administrator of both parishes *pro tempore*.

Father Perez-Diaz, like all individuals who are accused, is presumed to be innocent unless proved otherwise.

Anyone with any information regarding an allegation of child abuse may contact the Office of the Attorney General through the dedicated hotline: 844-324-3374 or email: aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

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The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo was founded in 1971. It encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and includes 59 parishes and missions as well as 20 Catholic schools. www.diokzoo.org.