

Catholic Priests Are Not "Fired"
Clarification from Archdiocesan Communications

"The word 'firing' has been used in recent published reports when describing disciplinary actions involving ordained Catholic priests in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Other media outlets have picked up the phrase, as well, and used it in their stories. The reality of the situation- 'removed from ministry' -is not the same as 'being fired.' Not unlike any other professional, when a priest is placed on a leave of absence, his status is 'on hold' pending resolution of the complaint brought against him. He is not 'fired.' And, by describing a complaint as 'credible' does not imply that there has been a final determination of guilt. Furthermore, as it relates to the cases of Detroit priests who have been disciplined under the strict terms of the *'Dallas Charter' for the Protection of Children and Young People*, while it is accurate to report that these men are/were removed from the active or public ministry in the Church, they do remain priests, although they can no longer function in that role. Catholics believe that baptism and ordination- and confirmation, too- make a person 'different' in a way that can never be taken away-to our benefit or to our shame."

--- Statement from Ned McGrath
Director of Communications
Friday, 28th June

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