

News Release
Catholic Diocese of Peoria
October 18, 2018

For Immediate Release

***Diocese of Peoria Responds to Lawsuit
Filed by Attorney Jeff Anderson***

Peoria, IL – Today Attorney Jeff Anderson filed a lawsuit suing all six dioceses in the state of Illinois. The Diocese has not had the opportunity to review all the details of the lawsuit. However, during his press conference announcing this filing, Jeff Anderson made several statements that require clarification.

Mr. Anderson claimed that John Doe 595, named in the lawsuit, alleges that Msgr. Charles Beebe molested him in 1981. Mr. Anderson claimed that Bishop Jenky has ignored this allegation. This statement is inaccurate.

In June 2018, the Diocese of Peoria received an allegation that Msgr. Beebe sexually abused John Doe 595 in 1981 (37 years ago). Msgr. Beebe was immediately placed on administrative leave and cooperated with the investigation. This allegation was immediately reported to the Peoria Police Department. The police investigated this accusation and reviewed Msgr. Beebe's personnel file. They concluded their investigation and sent an email acknowledging the Diocese's cooperation in this matter. This allegation was taken to our Diocesan Review Commission. The Commission unanimously determined that the allegation was unsubstantiated and could not be deemed credible. Msgr. Beebe was reinstated in ministry. Msgr. Beebe is a retired priest since 2016.

Jeff Anderson also stated at the press conference that Fr. John Anderson maintains faculties with the Diocese of Peoria and implied that he is allowed to function in ministry. As announced in our press statement in 2002, Bishop Jenky removed Fr. John Anderson from all public ministry. Fr. John Anderson does not possess faculties with the Diocese and is forbidden to exercise priestly ministry.

The Diocese of Peoria has been accused of ignoring Darin Buckman's complaints when he came forward to allege that he was abused by Fr. Anderson nearly 34 years ago. The Diocese has had conversations with both Buckman and the attorneys representing him, even yesterday October 17, 2018.

Under the direction of Bishop Jenky, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria remains committed to maintaining a safe environment to all children.

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