



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Saint Cloud
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February 14, 2025

Parishes on the Prairie ACC

Saint Francis de Sales, Belgrade
Saint Donatus, Brooten
Saints Peter and Paul, Elrosa
Our Lady of Angels, Sauk Centre
Sain Paul, Sauk Centre
Saint Alexius, West Union

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have recently learned about interpersonal boundary issues involving your pastor, Father Greg Paffel, and another adult. I have discussed this matter with Father Greg, and he has asked for an administrative leave of absence effective immediately. I have granted this request, and we are in agreement that he will undergo a professional evaluation during his time away.

The diocese will provide ministerial support to the Parishes on the Prairie ACC during his absence. In the coming days, I also will appoint a parochial administrator to the parishes of the ACC to offer support and guidance to staff and assist your parochial vicar, Father Mark Botzet. Members of a Diocesan Response Team will visit this week with ACC leadership to address questions and concerns.

I will provide updates as appropriate. Please keep all impacted by this situation in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

+ Patrick M. Neary, C.S.C.

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Bishop, Diocese of Saint Cloud