

Statement of Fr. John Gloss for the weekend of March 30-31

Brothers and Sisters,

Some of you may have read or heard today about a published article concerning three priests who served in our parish from 15 to 25 years ago and who were permanently removed from ministry for acts of abuse: Fathers John Butler, Romano Ferraro and Edward DePaoli. None of the charges against these priests are new. Their names have surfaced in the media again because they were not included on our diocese's list of clergy credibly accused of abuse that was made public in February.

All three of these priests were from other dioceses. None of these three was ordained for the Diocese of Metuchen, or ever became priests of our Diocese. Our list of credibly accused priests included those who could properly be identified - as the materials accompanying the list said - as priests of the Diocese of Metuchen, and it would have been incorrect and inappropriate to have listed these three.

During the time these three priests served at St. John Vianney there was never a report that they acted inappropriately with anyone. In the case of Fr. Butler, he was immediately removed from the parish when the Diocese received a credible allegation of abuse he committed in a previous diocese. In the case of Fr. DePaoli and Fr. Ferraro the Diocese learned of their abusive actions only after they had left here.

It is the firm policy of the Diocese that whenever a request is received concerning a priest from another diocese or a religious community who would like to serve here, that priest is thoroughly vetted to be sure there is no reason to believe he could be a threat to anyone. This is just one of many ways the Diocese seeks to fulfill its mission to protect the faithful as much as is humanly possible, especially the most vulnerable among us.

Let us continue to pray for all those who have been affected by any form of abuse. May our pathway forward be in the healing presence of Christ.