



## *Faith Community of St. Sabina*

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Sunday, March 21, 2021

Dear Friends,

First let me thank all of you – parishioners, community members, elected officials, friends alike. You have prayed for me and written to the Cardinal and the Archdiocese Review Board asking them to conclude their investigation or, at least, send me back to St. Sabina, as is provided for by canon law, while they continue their investigation. I am grateful.

It has been more than two months since the onset of the Archdiocese's investigation. Two months in which DCFS has concluded its investigation, and two months during which the parishioners of St. Sabina, the community we serve, and I have received little information about the Archdiocese's "investigation" or why it is taking so long.

To protect the parish, the community, and my name, nearly a week ago, in concert with due process and even canon law, my attorneys requested that I be allowed to address the Review Board at their Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Late Friday afternoon Moira Reilly, the newly appointed interim director, informed us that the Review Board was "not prepared to meet" with me until they investigated further. When would that be? She couldn't say beyond "as soon as practicable", telling us that "the Review Board is comprised of volunteers, most of whom have full-time jobs".

While this is disappointing, painful, and harmful to the St. Sabina and Auburn Gresham communities, and me, I will not let this Board or the process destroy all that we, together, have built.

I am innocent of the charges made against me and continue to believe that the Review Board and the Cardinal will see the truth, conclude that these uncorroborated allegations are unfounded and restore me to the ministry at St. Sabina. In the meantime, I know that I cannot emotionally or spiritually continue to remain isolated in an apartment waiting for this Board to do its job. While I hope and pray that the Review Board will work a little harder and more promptly to conclude their investigation, I will no longer wait in silence.

Over the next days, I will seek other ways and opportunities to minister in the Auburn Gresham community and continue outreach while this process seemingly drags on. I will let you know soon where and how I will be doing this.

In the Pursuit of Justice...

Rev. Michael L. Pfleger

*"An African American Catholic Community of Faith, Education and Service"*