



CONGREGATION
of the **MISSION**

THE VINCENTIANS
WESTERN PROVINCE

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Rev. James Beighlie, C.M., Enters Guilty Plea for Possession of Child Pornography

St. Louis, MO—Rev. James Beighlie, C.M., entered a guilty plea on Oct. 12, 2022, on two counts of possession of child pornography, for which he was charged by federal law enforcement authorities on Nov. 29, 2021.

The charges stem from an internal investigation initiated by the Congregation of the Mission Western Province in May 2021, during which Rev. Beighlie was removed from his position as associate pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in St. Louis and placed in a monitored environment. Based on information identified in the internal investigation, the province notified law enforcement, in accordance with province policy and Praesidium accreditation standards.

“We are deeply saddened and disappointed,” said Rev. Patrick McDevitt, C.M., provincial superior for the province. “The behavior for which Fr. Beighlie is accused runs contrary to the Vincentian charism, our mission, and everything we stand for. Exploitation of children through pornography is a grave sin and has no place in society.”

McDevitt stated a primary goal of the province has been and always will be to safeguard children, minors, and vulnerable adults. He said the province has cooperated with law enforcement and prosecutors in this case and will continue to do so.

The Congregation of the Mission Western Province is committed to a safe environment and maintains on-going accreditation from Praesidium, an organization that establishes protocols and best practices to safeguard children from abuse in programs and organizations.

The Congregation of the Mission was founded in 1625 in France by St. Vincent de Paul. The U.S. Western Province was established in 1818 and is headquartered in St. Louis, Mo., and includes ministries, parishes, and other apostolates throughout the western U.S. and Kenya, as well as sponsorship of DePaul University in Chicago. The Vincentians are dedicated to serving the materially poor, to education, and to the formation of new priests in accordance with the teachings and philosophy of its founder.

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