



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

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January 13, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you are aware, following the unanimous recommendation of the Diocesan Review Board, I placed Father Ronald Escalante on administrative leave pending the outcome of both a criminal investigation and an internal diocesan investigation related to alleged boundary violations. This decision was unfortunate but necessary.

On December 12, 2019, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office informed the Diocese that they would not pursue criminal charges against Father Escalante. Even with this welcome news, the Diocese must continue its own internal investigation related to alleged violations of the Clergy Code of Conduct, which addresses behavior related to both children and adults.

I have received many letters and emails regarding the situation. I recognize the pain, confusion, and frustration of so many of you. Nevertheless, conducting a thorough investigation in a manner that respects the rights of both Father Escalante and the alleged victims, requires confidentiality, time, and patience. Please know that the investigation is being carried out diligently, justly, and with good will.

Having entrusted you to the pastoral care of Monsignor John Cregan, the Parish Administrator, I am confident that you are in good hands and being given the support you need.

Know that the entire St. Francis de Sales Parish community is in my daily prayers. Pray for the intercession of our Blessed Mother and her son, Jesus Christ, the source of all justice, healing, and mercy.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington