



Dear Annunciation Families,

You place an extraordinary amount of trust in Annunciation and its leadership, teachers, and staff to educate, mentor, and develop your children. Our ministry is to provide an exceptional, Christ-centered Catholic education for all students. It is also our duty to provide your children a welcoming, friendly, and safe school environment in which to learn and grow. We take this duty very seriously and strive to be as transparent as possible with our community.

In that spirit of safety and transparency, we need to inform you of a recent event at Annunciation.

On the evening of Tuesday, March 2, Annunciation received a report that alleged an Annunciation employee engaged in what was described as inappropriate physical contact with a student. On the morning of Wednesday, March 3, Annunciation contacted the Minneapolis Police Department. The MPD promptly assigned this matter to an investigator. Annunciation is fully cooperating with the MPD's investigation and will direct all staff to do the same.

Annunciation also promptly contacted Judge Tim O'Malley, Director of the Archdiocese's Office of Ministerial Standards and Safe Environment. After contacting police and in consultation with the Archdiocese, Annunciation placed the individual who is the subject of the report on administrative leave pending the results of the MPD's investigation followed by our own internal investigation. Annunciation leadership also met with the parents of the student to inform them of the report and its allegations. The safety and well-being of our students is paramount, and we ask that everyone in the Annunciation community respect the confidentiality of those involved in this matter, particularly the student, and respect the investigation process.

We will keep you informed of this situation as it develops, but ask for your patience because it is unclear how long the process will take. We will continue to comply with the Archdiocese's safe environment policies, practices and procedures to ensure that all students, employees, and community members know how to identify and report possible abuse and misconduct and prevent abuse. In addition, we have engaged with our human resources consultant, legal counsel, and other stakeholders to make sure we are doing all we can to ensure a safe environment for your children.

We also ask that if anyone has information related to this incident, or any other incident of possible inappropriate conduct or abuse, that they immediately contact the Minneapolis Police Department, Annunciation leadership, or the Archdiocese's Office of Ministerial Standards and Safe Environment. Contact information for each is provided below.

Please pray for all involved in this situation and for our Annunciation School community.

Sincerely,

Fr. William Deziel
Pastor

Kari Zoebel
Principal

Thomas Konz
Business Administrator



Minneapolis Police Department

Call 911 or 612-673-3000 (Case number: 21-044-058)
Hennepin County Child Protection Services at 612-348-3552

Annunciation

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Archdiocese Office of Ministerial Standards and Safe Environment

Archdiocese's Victim Assistance Program at 651-291-4514 or 651-291-4475.
Investigator Jane Laurence at 612-961-8867, laurencej@archspm.org
Director Tim O'Malley at 651-290-1618, omalleyt@archspm.org
<https://safe-environment.archspm.org/report-abuse/>