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STATEMENT REGARDING REV. THOMAS JOSEPH

From Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda

In January of this year, the Carver County Sheriff's Office initiated a criminal investigation into allegations of inappropriate sexual conduct with an adult made against Reverend Thomas Joseph. Yesterday, I learned that the Carver County Attorney's Office, after reviewing the criminal investigation, declined to bring criminal charges in the case.

The Archdiocese's Office of Ministerial Standards and Safe Environment will begin its internal review process now that law enforcement has completed its work and has authorized this next step. The internal process is commencing immediately. Father Thomas remains on a leave of absence.

It may be tempting to listen to rumors and speculation about what may or may not have happened, but I urge all people of good will to refrain from that. I also urge patience and prayer until our internal process is completed.

Please continue to pray for all involved in this situation.