



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

# NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Statement regarding embezzlement case

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (May 3, 2017): In October, 2016 the Diocese of Kalamazoo announced that it had proactively turned over to civil authorities' findings from an independent forensic audit involving St. Mary Assumption Parish, Bronson and St. Barbara Parish, Colon, because of what appeared to be questionable financial transactions and practices at both parishes. The St. Joseph County Prosecutor has filed charges of felony embezzlement against Rev. Richard Fritz, former pastor. Fr. Fritz resigned as pastor, St. Mary Assumption Parish, Bronson, amidst the investigation last October. He is not currently in active ministry; however, he very much remains a priest for the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

The Diocese will continue to cooperate with authorities as this matter progresses through the court system. It remains committed to financial restitution for the Parishes involved. We continue to hold all parties involved in prayer.

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**The Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo** is the territory of Catholic churches and community led by Bishop Paul J. Bradley. The diocese was founded in 1971 when the Second Vatican Council called for the creation of smaller dioceses so that bishops could be more available to the people they serve. Today the diocese encompasses 5,337 square miles of nine counties in southwest Michigan: Allegan, Barry, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph and Branch and has grown to include 59 parishes as well as 22 Catholic schools.