



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
Diocese OF Helena

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Claims against Fr. Richard Perry, SJ

The Jesuit West Province has informed Bishop Austin A. Vetter of a claim of sexual abuse against Jesuit Priest, Fr. Richard Perry, stemming from a time in the 1980s when he was assigned in Seattle. In the Diocese of Helena, Father Perry served at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Missoula from July 1, 2001 to October 7, 2019. Beginning in July 2017 he also assisted at St. Ignatius Mission Parish in St. Ignatius, Sacred Heart Mission in Arlee and St. John Berchmans Mission in Jocko Montana.

In October of 2019, Fr. Perry was removed from his assignment at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Missoula by the Jesuit West Province. He was sent to Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos, California due to an allegation of boundary violation from a female adult.

In February of 2020, the Jesuit West Province received an allegation against Fr. Perry of sexual abuse of a minor from his time at Seattle Preparatory School in the 1980s. The Province reported this to police and, upon investigation, deemed the claim to be credible. Fr. Perry will continue to reside at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center under a safety plan that includes close supervision, restricts the use of technology, restricts interaction with minors and permanently prohibits him from public ministry.

Regarding these developments, Bishop Austin A. Vetter stated, "Abuse of anyone is a horrific act and repugnant to the humble and holy service that Christ calls his priests to live out each day. My heart goes out to victims who suffer the pain and trauma of abuse, and certainly my prayers."

All questions, concerns or allegations related to sexual abuse in the Diocese of Helena should be directed to the Victim's Advocate in the Diocese of Helena. Any person who believes there is or has been abuse committed by a cleric, church worker or volunteer is encouraged to report the incident to law enforcement and contact the Victim's Advocate at:

*victimassistant@diocesehelena.org
406-459-0513*

For media Inquiries regarding Fr. Perry, contact: Tracey Primrose | Jesuits West Province (301) 509-0535
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