



**CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION**  
AN EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION  
5725 STEARNS SCHOOL ROAD  
GURNEE, IL 60031-1039

Office of the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

7/5/90

You may have seen or heard about a news item that appeared in a recent issue of a Waukegan paper about a priest of this Diocese who recently left his post after an internal investigation by the Diocese. I thought you should have some background about this matter, including the chronology of events and the steps we have taken to respond to needs as we have learned of them.

Some weeks ago, in the course of counselling through the Office of Pastoral Care, a young man revealed a personal experience some years ago with the Reverend Richard Kearney that caused us grave concern. The Reverend Chilton Knudsen and I met as soon as possible with Father Kearney, who acknowledged the need for a leave as Rector of his present parish in the course of our discussion. He also acknowledged to us that he understood that his active priesthood is over.

Chilton and I met promptly with the Vestry of the Church and then with members of the Church. Carol Amadio, an Assistant Chancellor of the Diocese, joined us at the parish meeting. Counselors and social workers were and continue to be available to members of the Church in order to help them deal with this situation. I have asked Father George Karney to serve as Interim Rector of the Church during this difficult period.

Our principal aim has been and will be to help all of those affected. We have reason to believe that there are others who have had similar experiences but may be reluctant to come forward. We have initiated an open process with respect to this matter in order to encourage them to do so. Although we will not be able to discuss the circumstances or experiences of individuals out of concern for their privacy, we want to maintain this openness in order to foster the healing process.

If you are aware or learn of any persons who need help, please let us know so that we may assist them in gaining access to the necessary specialized counseling and treatment. If you have any questions about this matter, or any information you wish to report, please call Chilton or me.

Yours in Christ,

Right Reverend Frank T. Griswold, III  
Bishop of Chicago