

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO RECEIVES AFFIDAVIT FROM A MAN ACCUSING FATHER MICHAEL PFLEGER OF SEXUALLY ASSAULTING HIM & GIVING HIM DRUGS AND LIQUOR AS A TEENAGER IN THE RECTORY AT ST. SABINA

CHICAGO MARCH 2nd, 2021 An attorney, representing two men who filed claims accusing Father Michael Pfleger of sexual assault beginning at age 12, presented the Archdiocese of Chicago with a signed and notarized affidavit from another man now in his late 50's who says Father Pfleger sexually assaulted him and gave him drugs and liquor as a teenager in the mid to late 70's. In his sworn statement, the man says the sexual assault occurred the summer after he graduated from high school in the priest's bedroom at the St. Sabina rectory. He was 18 at the time. According to the affidavit, the man also accuses Father Pfleger of regularly giving him marijuana and liquor as a younger teenager beginning at age 15. The man is not filing a legal claim but will cooperate with the Archdiocese's investigation.

"This man is not filing a lawsuit and he is not looking for money. This is painful for him to talk about. However, he came forward because he wants the Archdiocese to know what kind of priest Father Pfleger really is so it can take appropriate action and remove him from St. Sabina," said Eugene Hollander, the attorney representing two men who made sexual abuse claims against Father Pfleger "He wants to support the victims who have come forward and the many who have not because of fear of retribution from Father Pfleger and his supporters."

In his affidavit, the man says he attended St. Sabina grammar school and graduated in the mid 1970's. He was an only child and his father was not involved in his life. While in high school, he worked at St. Sabina as part of the CETA youth program. That is when he met Father Pfleger. He called him Mike and viewed him as a big brother and mentor. He said Father Pfleger often took him to jazz clubs around the city where he would drink with the priest even though he was underage. He says the priest often got high with him in his rectory bedroom and that Father Pfleger usually kept a quarter pound of marijuana in his room. According to the affidavit, the sexual assault occurred in Pfleger's bedroom after they had both gotten high,

“It was not consensual. He thought I was sleeping at the time. I was stunned and was eventually able to push him off me. After that, I was done with Mike Pfleger,” said the man who does not want his name publicized . “I do not want to take legal action but when I heard his supporters attacking the other victims and saying Father Mike could do never do this, I knew I had to come forward and tell the truth. Hopefully, my experience will add to their credibility and encourage other victims to come forward.”

The man has lived in the south for many years and works as a truck driver. He says he had a drug problem until age 33 but has been clean and sober for more than 25 years. He says in his affidavit that he once returned to St. Sabina looking for closure and hoping Father Pfleger would apologize to him but the priest never did.

“When I was 15 and 16, I thought it was cool that a priest would get high and drink with me but as an adult, it horrifies me. He should have been discouraging this behavior not encouraging and fueling it,” the man said. “I can now separate Mike the very flawed person from Father Pfleger, a priest who has also done good. I do not wish him any malice but he should not be around young children and the victims should be believed and respected because it is not easy to come forward.”

“Father Pfleger and his supporters should not interfere with the process and allow the Archdiocese to carry out its investigation,” said Hollander. “With their threats, protests, falsehoods and victim trashing, they are showing who they really are. These are not the actions of an innocent man or a person of faith. Sadly, it could deter many victims of sexual abuse from coming forward not just regarding Father Pfleger but across the board.”