



## **Most Reverend Robert W. Finn**

Bishop

Diocese of Kansas City ~ St. Joseph

### **Concerning the Arrest of the Reverend Shawn Ratigan**

**Father Shawn Ratigan**

**May 19, 2011**

The Diocese of Kansas City ~ St. Joseph is profoundly saddened to learn that Father Shawn Ratigan has been charged with the possession of child pornography. Charges came about after the diocese discovered troubling images on his personal computer and sought the advice of local law enforcement professionals.

First and foremost, the diocese is concerned for the safety and welfare of the unidentified children and their families. We acknowledge that the use of pornography is a very painful and corrosive influence in our culture, and we pray for the recovery of any child who has been exploited in this manner.

Since January 2011, Father Ratigan has lived at a private priests' residence in Independence, Missouri, and has had no parish assignment.

As a community of faith, we are called to protect the life and dignity of all people, especially children who are vulnerable. Preventing and reporting the suspicion of abuse is a required response to what we are called to do as followers of Jesus.

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