



Office of the Vicar General
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2030
archchicago.org

April 19, 2026

St. John Henry Newman Parish
1615 Lincoln St.
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear St. John Henry Newman Parish Family,

On April 10, Cardinal Cupich wrote to inform you that he had concluded that your former pastor, Father Kenneth Anderson, had violated a number of core archdiocesan policies regarding the good stewardship of parish resources. Father Anderson resigned when confronted with this information and accepted the Cardinal's instruction that when a full accounting is complete, he is to make restitution for any funds clearly identified as covering his personal expenses.

On April 16, your new administrator, Father Jerry Gunderson, and parish leadership hosted a meeting with me, Bishop O'Malley, and other representatives, including the General Counsel of the archdiocese, to review this situation and chart a course forward. During that meeting, we listened to the concerns and needs of parish leadership. We shared that our investigation to date revealed that Father Anderson maintained a separate parish bank account into which he deposited substantial parish funds. Father Anderson used the money in that account for both parish and non-parish expenses. After a larger group meeting, we met with the pastoral council and the finance council to address next steps.

We and parish leadership agreed that the best way forward would be to retain an independent forensic accounting firm, at the archdiocese's expense, to investigate fully all of the financial issues presented. The archdiocese will provide the independent accountants with all of the information it has gathered thus far in its internal investigation, but the independent investigation will not be limited to that information. There will be an opportunity for anyone with relevant information to provide it to the investigators. This investigation will follow the facts, regardless of where they lead, and will result in a report that will be shared with the parish. Once the investigation is concluded, we and the parish can decide on further steps. Until then, we would ask for your patience.

This is a very painful time for your parish, but we are committed to working with you to find the truth, repair the damage and seek restoration of trust. It is clear to us that the pain inflicted here is not solely financial, but spiritual as well, and we are deeply sorry for that. You share a desire for spiritual unity and are strengthened by friendships and care for one another. It is my prayer that our actions now will put us on the path to long term healing. In the meantime, we will do our very best to help you weather this storm.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence J. Sullivan".

Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Chicago