



CONGREGATION
of the **MISSION**

THE VINCENTIANS
WESTERN PROVINCE

3701 FOREST PARK AVENUE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63108
314 - 344 - 1184
VINCENTIAN.ORG

For Immediate release:
January 10, 2023

Contact: Chris Duggan
Communications Manager
Congregation of the Mission
Western Province
communications@vincentian.org

Rev. James Beighlie, C.M., Sentenced for Possession of Child Pornography

St. Louis, MO—Earlier today, Rev. James Beighlie, C.M., was sentenced to five years of imprisonment and ordered to pay restitution following his Oct. 12, 2022, guilty plea on two counts of possession of child pornography, for which he was charged by federal law enforcement authorities on Nov. 29, 2021.

The charges stem from an internal investigation initiated by the Congregation of the Mission Western Province in May 2021, during which Rev. Beighlie was removed from his position as associate pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in St. Louis and placed in a monitored environment. Based on information identified in its internal investigation, the province notified law enforcement, in accordance with province policy and Praesidium accreditation standards.

“While the circumstances surrounding this sentencing are very saddening for us, we respect the judge’s decision and have cooperated with law enforcement throughout the process,” said Rev. Patrick McDevitt, C.M., provincial superior for the Congregation of the Mission Western Province. “Exploitation of children through pornography is a grave sin and has no place in society.”

When the charges were filed, the congregation encouraged members of the community, in particular those in which Fr. Beighlie served, to come forward with any additional information. McDevitt stated a primary goal of the province has been and always will be to safeguard children, minors, and vulnerable adults.

The Congregation of the Mission Western Province is committed to a safe environment and maintains on-going accreditation from Praesidium, an organization that establishes protocols and best practices to safeguard children from abuse in programs and organizations. The province recently completed its review process with Praesidium, and its accreditation was renewed through 2027.

The Congregation of the Mission was founded in 1625 in France by St. Vincent de Paul. The U.S. Western Province was established in 1818 and is headquartered in St. Louis, Mo. It includes ministries, parishes, and other apostolates throughout the western U.S. and Kenya, as well as sponsorship of DePaul University in Chicago. The Vincentians are dedicated to serving the materially poor, to education, and to the formation of new priests in accordance with the teachings and philosophy of its founder.

##