

Fr. Geoff Drew – Sequence of Events

- In 2013 and again in 2015, the central office of the archdiocese received concerns from St. Maximilian Kolbe parishioners regarding Fr. Drew’s behavior. The alleged behavior involved a pattern of such things as uninvited bear hugs, shoulder massages, patting of the leg above the knee, and inappropriate sexual comments about one’s body or appearance, directed at teenage boys. This behavior naturally made these boys uncomfortable. In addition, there was a report of Fr. Drew texting some of the boys “teasing them about girlfriends.”
- The concerns reported to the central office were promptly forwarded to the Butler County Prosecutor’s Office and Butler County Children’s Services. The investigation by the Prosecutor’s Office found no evidence of criminal behavior and the Butler County Children’s Services decided not to open an investigation.
- Bishop Binzer, in his role as Director of Priest Personnel, addressed Fr. Drew’s behavior with him on two separate occasions prior to 2018. Fr. Drew said that he was unaware of the concerns of the parishioners and said that he would change his behavior.
- The central offices of the archdiocese received no complaints about Fr. Drew from October 2015 until August 2018.
- With the departure of the previous pastor, St. Ignatius became what is known as “open listed.” That is, the Priest Personnel Board advertised the open position to the priests of the archdiocese and invited indications of interest. Fr. Drew indicated to the Board that he would like to be considered. Fr. Drew said that his elderly mother lives close to the parish and he would like to move closer to her. **He was not asked to leave St. Max.** Under our policy, he could have stayed at St. Max for an additional 3 years.
- In August 2018, the month after Fr. Drew was assigned as pastor of St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, the central office received a complaint via letter from a St. Maximilian Kolbe parishioner essentially reiterating the 2015 and earlier concerns. This was the first time that Archbishop Schnurr learned of Fr. Drew’s alleged behavior. This letter was turned over to the Butler County Prosecutor’s Office for investigation.
- In September 2018, at the recommendation of the Butler County Prosecutor, Fr. Drew was asked to restrict his involvement with the school and was assigned a “monitor” – essentially for accountability – with whom to regularly meet.

- In October 2018, Bishop Binzer received a letter from a St. Ignatius parishioner describing her son-in-law's very negative reaction to Fr. Drew dating back to his experiences with then-Mr. Geoff Drew at Elder High School. The son-in-law stated that Mr. Drew inappropriately touched his leg and made him feel very uncomfortable. This letter was promptly forwarded to the Butler County Prosecutor to inform their investigation which was in progress.
- The central office received the Butler County Prosecutor's investigation report in early February 2019. The Prosecutor's Office again found no evidence of criminal behavior.
- Because the allegations involved possible violations of the *Decree on Child Protection*, the archdiocese retained Strategic HR – an independent investigation firm used by many organizations and corporations – to investigate. This investigation began in February 2019. Fr. Drew was asked to continue to restrict his involvement with the school during this investigation.
- In May 2019, the central office received the investigation report from Strategic HR. The investigation uncovered no criminal behavior, but recommended that Fr. Drew be provided professional and targeted counseling surrounding his emotional IQ regarding how he interacts with people in both the way he communicates and physically. Fr. Drew began attending counseling sessions with a psychologist in June 2019.
- In June 2019, while Fr. Drew was in counseling, a complaint was received by the central office from a St. Ignatius family alleging that Fr. Drew had texted their teenage son. This complaint was immediately turned over to the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office. Their investigation confirmed the texting – which is a violation of the *Decree on Child Protection* – but revealed no criminal behavior on the part of Fr. Drew. The content of the text messages was innocuous.
- Given the pattern of behavior in contradiction to the *Decree on Child Protection*, Archbishop Schnurr removed Fr. Drew as pastor of St. Ignatius on July 23, placing him on a leave of absence and ordering him sent for comprehensive physical, psychological and spiritual evaluation at an independent in-patient treatment facility.
- On July 31, 2019, Deacon Tim Helmick was named Temporary Administrator of St. Ignatius parish.