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## FACT-CHECKING CLAIMS BY SNAP AGAINST DETROIT ARCHDIOCESE

“Public claims made on Monday, May 4, by the advocacy group SNAP about the policies and practices of the Archdiocese of Detroit when handling complaints of clerical sexual misconduct are misleading and misinformed.

“The timetable does not support SNAP’s claim of a ‘slow response’ regarding the most recent case brought to the archdiocese. When a complaint against Fr. Kenneth Kaucke was made in late January, it was immediately turned over to civil authorities. The Archdiocesan Board of Review then met and commissioned an independent investigation of the allegation, which dates back to the early years of the priest’s ministry. That process was careful, thorough and fair, and when it was concluded, the results were considered by the Review Board. The Board made a finding that the complaint was of sufficient substance (credibility) to make a recommendation to Archbishop Allen Vigneron. He, in turn, placed Fr. Kaucke on administrative leave.

“Contrary to the claims made by SNAP, the information about Fr. Kaucke was shared with all of the parishes where he has served. It was also distributed as a news release, as a letter to parishioners and school parents, posted on the archdiocesan Web site, published in The Michigan Catholic newspaper, offered to parish bulletins, and carried by several local media outlets. Further, the names of those priests against whom there have been credible allegations of sexual abuse are listed on the Archdiocese of Detroit Web site. Any suggestion of ‘non-transparency’ against the archdiocese is not supported by the facts. SNAP should be held accountable for its false claims, first and foremost by those who choose to publicize the misinformation without any effort to confirm its veracity.

“For over 20-years, the archdiocese has had a policy for dealing with complaints of sexual misconduct against priests and church personnel. It has been tested and it works. And it works well. SNAP has once again tried to mislead the public about what is available on the Internet from the archdiocese. Information about reporting complaints to church officials and civil authorities, about safe environment programs, about archdiocesan policy, and details about past cases are posted at [www.AODonline.org/Protect&Heal](http://www.AODonline.org/Protect&Heal). And it has been for over six years.”

- Ned McGrath  
Director of Communications  
May 4, 2009