



Official Statement

Father Michael Lane, Moderator, and Father Gregory Alberts, Parochial Vicar to the Moderator

On Thursday, November 21, Queen of Apostles hosted the visit of the relic of St. Jude for public veneration.

A non-profit, outside ministry called “Treasures of the Church”, was responsible for hosting the relic in the United States. The relic has been on a national pilgrimage in the United States for over a year. The tour and the relic were overseen by a priest with the Companions of the Cross, an Order of priests in Canada.

During the course of the day’s veneration in Queen of Apostles Church, an incident with the priest and some students was reported to have happened in our church. We immediately contacted the police. A police investigation is still on-going. The priest was confronted with the information. We informed the priest that he must depart from our parish and out of our Diocese.

In an abundance of caution, we decided that the remainder of the veneration of the relic and evening mass would be cancelled. These decisions and actions were in accordance with our Diocesan Safe Environment Policies and our Standards of Behavior.

The incident was also immediately reported to Bishop Ronald Hicks of the Diocese of Joliet, who supported our decision to cancel the remainder of the event and on the evening of November 21, Bishop Hicks cancelled the tour of the relic scheduled at two more of our parishes this week. Bishop Hicks also informed the Superior of the Companions of the Cross Order of priests.

All involved in this incident are safe.

All of the priests at both campuses of Queen of Apostles are committed to keeping people safe and will continue to act accordingly. We are deeply saddened by this incident and all impacted by the cancellation of the relic tour. We thank you for your understanding and ask that you continue to keep everyone involved in your prayers.

Wishing you peace, we remain,
Yours in Christ Jesus,

Rev. Michael R. Lane
Moderator

Rev. Gregory L. Alberts
Parochial Vicar to the Moderator

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Media inquiries should be made **exclusively** to the Diocese of Joliet Office of Communications at (815) 221-6100