



THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX EPISCOPATE OF AMERICA

Most Reverend NATHANIEL Popp, Archbishop

SNAP,

In response to the major points you raise in your letter concerning Robert Mitchell, I offer the following:

1. Robert Mitchell was officially removed from all positions of leadership during the course of a recent investigation into new allegations of sexual misconduct. On November 20, 2013, he was stripped of the title Subdeacon, indefinitely forbidden to have any contact with minors at the parish, and no longer allowed to have keys to the church.
2. Mr. Mitchell was immediately barred from all liturgical activity and from having any contact with minors at St. Raphael parish, where he once served, since the beginning of the investigation on May 6, 2013.
3. Robert Mitchell was told by me to resign as President of the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches in Detroit. He did so on May 23, 2013.
4. The entire parish has been informed of Mitchell's sex offender status as well as the outcome of the investigation. The allegations of sexual misconduct with a minor were substantiated. The parish was informed by the OCA's Office for Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations (ORSMA) that Robert Mitchell poses a high risk and should not have any contact with minors indefinitely. St. Raphael parish leaders determined that Mitchell can no longer attend services or activities there. He will be ministered to in his home by a priest. He has been refrained from receiving the sacraments.

On Sunday, March 30, I served the Divine Liturgy in the parish and afterwards had a question and answer period with those present at the coffee hour. I have contact with the victim's family and respond as they allow.

5. The Detroit Police have been made aware of the outcome of the investigation. ORSMA is considering additional steps that may be taken to inform other communities of the risk Mr. Mitchell poses. He is obligated to inform his priest if he chooses to attend another faith community so that they may also be made aware of his status.

In short, once ORSMA became aware of Robert Mitchell's sex offender status and the new allegations, the church responded appropriately to remove him from all positions of leadership and authority. St. Raphael parish was duly informed.

Sincerely,
Archbishop Nathaniel

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