Glossary of Terms

**Credible Allegation** – a report of sexual abuse in which sufficient detail exists to indicate the incident could have occurred and which requires further inquiry or investigation into the allegation.

**Dismissed or Expelled** – The act of dismissing a member of clergy from the clerical state. The Diocese may petition Rome for a priest’s dismissal after a canonical process, or a priest may be dismissed by Rome *ex officio*.

**Faculties Removed** – The removal of a priest’s ecclesiastical authority.

**Laicized** – A member of the clergy who has been removed from the clerical state.

**Life of Prayer and Penance** – A priest who has admitted an accusation and who has been assigned to a life of prayer and penance because the priest is not suited for dismissal due to age or infirmity.

**Suspension** – A clergy who is prohibited from performing public ministry while on administrative leave pending an investigation or other determination.