

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.