



DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND
SECRETARIAT FOR COMMUNICATIONS

**Announcement to be read by the priest at all the Masses
the weekend of September 8-9, 2018**

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend would like to inform you directly about recent media reports regarding an alleged incident during Bishop Kevin Rhoades' time in Harrisburg.

The Diocese of Harrisburg recently confirmed that it received an allegation of misconduct against Bishop Rhoades relating to his service as a priest within the Diocese. The diocese referred the matter to law enforcement. It stressed that it is only an allegation.

According to media sources, Dauphin County District Attorney Fran Chardo said that there is no indication of a crime from the initial report. He told media sources, "It was a report from a family member of a young man who died in 1996, saying they thought the relationship between then-Father Rhoades and this young man was odd and they reported it." Chardo emphasized that there is no indication of a criminal act, and that the family member who reported to the diocese did not observe any criminal misconduct.

Bishop Rhoades adamantly denies any validity to this accusation and the insinuation of inappropriate behavior. He did nothing wrong and is confident any investigation will bear this out.

You are encouraged, dear faithful, to remain fervent in prayer during this difficult time for victims of sexual abuse, Bishop Rhoades and for the whole Church. May God fill us with peace and hope.