



DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND
SECRETARIAT FOR COMMUNICATIONS

**Announcement to be read by the priest at all the Masses
the weekend of September 15-16, 2018**

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is pleased to share with you directly about the results of the investigation completed by the Dauphin County District Attorney regarding an alleged incident during Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' time in Harrisburg.

Official Statement by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend appreciates the swift and thorough investigation into the unsubstantiated allegation against Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. As anticipated, the investigation exonerated Bishop Rhoades. The district attorney found the allegation was without merit and stated, "After a full investigation, the Dauphin County District Attorney has determined that there is no basis to conclude that Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades ever engaged in a criminal or otherwise improper relationship." The relationship in question was, "in the context of pastoral care and arose out of the recognized tradition of prison ministry."

While it's important that allegations be brought forward, it's equally important for due process to take place. The result of this investigation underscores the importance of allowing appropriate authorities to determine credibility of accusations before the reputation of any individual is impugned in the court of public opinion.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend stands firm in sympathy and support for all victims of child sexual abuse and encourages victims to report allegations. Bishop Rhoades expresses his gratitude for the support he has received from parishioners during the past week. He states, "I have offered up the pain of this difficult time for the victim survivors of child sexual abuse."