



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**A Statement from the Diocese of Winona
Marsha Stenzel, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Winona**

AUSTIN, MN – October 7, 2014 – Pacelli Catholic Schools today, terminated the employment of Ms. Mary Gilles, who served as a High School math teacher at Pacelli High School. Ms. Gilles has been arrested for suspicion of Criminal Sexual Conduct involving a minor child.

The Pacelli High School Administration has been cooperating with law enforcement during this investigation. The Administration will continue to provide any assistance needed by law enforcement in connection with the prosecution of this case.

The Administration at Pacelli Catholic Schools is committed to ensuring the safety and education of the students entrusted to their care. Pacelli Catholic Schools has adopted procedures and a protocol to identify sexual abuse and immediately report suspicious activity to law enforcement. Those procedures and protocols resulted in Ms. Gilles arrest and prosecution in this matter.

Our prayers go out to those who have suffered child sexual abuse and who have been harmed. We encourage anyone with information regarding child sexual abuse to immediately report that information to law enforcement and we remain committed to protect all God's children.

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