

***** Media Advisory - Statement For Immediate Release *****

Edward M. Lohse installed as Bishop Of Kalamazoo Despite Poor Record Related to Child Protection in Erie

James Faluszczyk, himself a victim of abuse by a priest, and still feeling called to the priesthood, left active ministry because the Church ignored his claims. He testified before the 40th Pennsylvania Grand Jury as it investigated six dioceses in Pennsylvania.

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WHAT: Responding to the installation of Edward Lohse as Bishop of the Diocese of Kalamazoo MI.

WHEN: Available anytime by arrangement.

WHERE: Anywhere by arrangement.

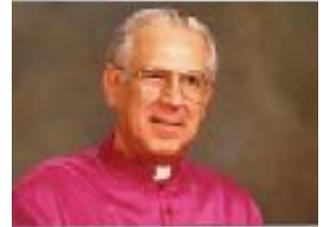
WHO: Victim advocate James Faluszczyk, a participant in the Pennsylvania 40th Statewide Investigating Grand Jury, former priest confrere with Bishop Edward Lohse, when both were priests of the Diocese of Erie.

BUFFALO, NY. Tuesday, July 25, 2023 – When I was a newly ordained priest in the Diocese of Erie, (then Fr.) Ed Lohse was someone I looked up to for how to be a priest; now his life is a guide to any priest who wants to be a bishop. His ecclesiastical career has been marked by apparent humility and competence, and these ensuing years he has built out his resume such that a protege of Bishop Donald Trautman is replacing a protege of Cardinal Donald Wuerl in Kalamazoo, both of whom figured prominently in the 2018 Report of the 40th Pennsylvania Investigating Grand Jury. Some of Bishop Ed's confreres back home suggest he has a "Little Lord Fauntleroy" way about him; partly, as one with whom everything is known and in its place.

And yet...

Two priests of the Diocese of Erie (pp.441-442 & pp.472-474) who were credibly accused by the 40th PA Grand Jury continue to serve in that diocese and have access to children only because they fought to have their names redacted in the final Report. Never mind that that information provided to grand jurors came from the diocese's files. As Director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth Lohse seems to have raised no issue that they continue to serve, despite having worked alongside both, and knowing the allegations against them.

In recent months, Fr. Sean Kerins was removed from the Diocese of Erie's Public Disclosure List of publicly accused parties of child sex abuse. Shortly after his ordination to priesthood, Kerins allegedly sent "inappropriate communications" via text to a minor student at his school. Kerins was removed by the RC Bishop of Erie and publicly listed on the diocese's website. Police were contacted. A Florida Statewide Prosecution Report included Kerins as an accused party now living in



that state. Following all this, Kerins recently went off the Diocese of Erie list with no explanation to the public, while Msgr. Lohse was Director of the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth.

Wherever Kerins is today, I wonder if Lohse regards children as safe around him. He seems fine with them being around the two other accused priests that he served with. Lohse carries a type of inheritance to Kalamazoo, and it will be interesting to see what the good people there end up getting from him. The Catholic Church keeps creating bishops out of priests of the Diocese of Erie despite its bleak history of protecting children. As far as Pope Francis, US Papal Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre, and those who advise the Pope on his choice of bishops are concerned, they all certainly like Lohse's resume.

Multiple child protection policies, halting revelations, internal self-investigation—bureaucracy—managed in large part by Bishop-elect Lohse in the Diocese of Erie haven't served the mandate of the Gospel he professes so much as given the public a partial truth and a false sense of security.

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Victim Advocate