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Spencerport Priest Leaves Post Following Misconduct Allegation

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The pastor of a Roman Catholic church in Spencerport has resigned from his position following a female parishioner's allegations of misconduct, church officials said.

The Rev. Robert Winterkorn, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in suburban Rochester, resigned last week at the request of Bishop Matthew H. Clark, said the Rev. Robert Ring, director of personnel for the Diocese of Rochester.

An unidentified woman complained of "professional misconduct in the priest-parishioner relationship."

Winterkorn admitted the accusation was true, Ring said.

Ring said the charge involved "one particular situation" that occurred 10 years ago or more.

It did not involve a child or physical coercion, he said.

Winterkorn is on leave for "assessment and treatment," the diocese said.

The priest has not left the priesthood, said the Rev. George Norton, diocesan spokesman.

Winterkorn, 63, has served in the diocese for nearly 40 years.

He spent the last 18 years at St. John the Evangelist.

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