



JESUITS  
USA Northeast Province

Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam

February 26, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

An allegation of sexual abuse of a minor, dating to the 1970s, has been reported to me very recently about a Jesuit of the USA Northeast Province, Fr. Carsten Martensen, SJ. As you know, Fr. Martensen has generously served over several years in campus ministry at Ithaca College and Cornell University, both in the Diocese of Rochester, NY.

The province takes all claims of sexual misconduct seriously, especially when the alleged victim was a minor at the time. Although an accusation is not deemed credible until a full investigation is complete, our cautionary protocol calls for us to temporarily suspend from ministry any Jesuit with a claim of sexual abuse until an investigation is completed and our independent review board provides its recommendations. Therefore, Fr. Martensen has stepped down from his current assignments until the review of this allegation is complete.

Again, these procedures in no way confirm or deny the claim we have received, but as the Jesuits and the Church strive to serve the People of God with greater transparency and accountability, we will always proceed with every precaution to safeguard those who have put their trust in us.

We remain committed to the protection of minors and vulnerable adults in the conduct of our ministry and encourage anyone who suspects abuse by any clergy or employee of the province to contact us.

Sincerely,

Fr. John J. Cecero, SJ  
Provincial  
USA Northeast Province