



DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS

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For Immediate Release

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Fr. Garrett Nelson has been on administrative leave since July of 2025. Recently he submitted a petition to be dispensed from the rights and obligations of the clerical state (aka "laicized"). That petition is now in process (note: laicization does not invalidate any sacraments he previously celebrated while in ministry).

As a matter of course in such proceedings, Fr. Nelson continues to be prohibited from exercising any and all priestly ministries, whether public or private.

Fr. Nelson continues to be a priest, and while this process is ongoing he is still bound by his promises of prayer, obedience, and chaste celibacy. An update will be provided at the conclusion of the process.

Questions can be directed to Fr. Samuel Spiering, Vicar for Clergy: frspiering@diocesegfb.org, 406-604-1848.