



June 25, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Madison,

I am writing to provide an important update concerning Andrew Showers. Although the civil and legal proceedings have not yet been resolved, I have received notification from the Holy See that Andrew Showers has been released from the rights, duties, and obligations of the clerical state. Mr. Showers petitioned the Vatican for a dispensation from the obligations associated with the clerical state, and that petition was granted by Pope Leo XIV.

The loss of the clerical state, often referred to as laicization, means that Andrew Showers may no longer exercise priestly ministry, including the celebration of Mass, baptism, anointing of the sick, etc., or other functions proper to a priest. He is not to wear clerical attire, including the Roman collar, and should no longer be addressed as “Father” or “Reverend.” As Canon 292 states, “by the loss of the clerical state, he is deprived of all offices, functions, and any delegated power.”

As I have indicated previously, I remain committed to transparent and timely communication regarding this sad and difficult situation. Accordingly, I will continue to share any significant legal developments as they become available.

I ask for your continued prayers for all those affected and commend everyone involved, including Andrew, to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. May we find comfort in the Lord’s unfailing love and mercy, remembering that He remains with us in every trial, suffering, and sorrow.

Yours in Christ,

+Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Madison

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