



ARCHDIOCESE *of* KINGSTON

Statement Concerning Financial Investigation in Merrickville, Spencerville and North Augusta

August 22, 2022

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were contacted on Monday, August 15, 2022, by the Archdiocese of Kingston regarding evidence of financial irregularities within the accounts of the parish communities of St. Ann, Merrickville, St. Laurence O'Toole, Spencerville, and St. Theresa, North Augusta. The irregularities in question took place between the years of 2011 and 2021. Fr. Julius Nwagbara, Sons of Mary Mother of Mercy (SMMM), was the pastor of the parishes during this time and has cooperated with initial inquiries into the matter. Fr. Nwagbara has been withdrawn from the Archdiocese. At the conclusion of the investigation, any findings of financial loss to the parishes will be restored by the Archdiocese. This situation is the cause of great sorrow. The investigation is ongoing. We ask for your prayers for all those impacted by these events.