



**Diocese of La Crosse**  
Office of Communications and Public Relations

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Diocesan Statement Regarding Former Coach Seth Milkey**

La Crosse, WI: The Diocese of La Crosse is profoundly shocked and deeply saddened by the recent allegations against a former athletic coach within our community. We were appalled to learn yesterday afternoon that Seth Milkey was charged with allegations of taking pictures of our Catholic school teenagers without their consent.

Amid the distress of learning about Mr. Milkey's alleged actions, we are tremendously grateful to those who reported this behavior, and we commend their courage and strength in coming forward. We appreciate the efforts of our law enforcement agencies in protecting our students. The Diocese of La Crosse fully supports any investigation into these matters and stands with all affected students, staff and families.

These allegations represent a grave violation of the law and Diocese of La Crosse policies designed to protect students and their well-being. Stringent protocols are in place to prevent abuse and ensure students' safety, and we will continue to enforce these policies rigorously. Mr. Milkey underwent background checks before and during his time as a coach, and allowing students to visit his residence is a clear and troubling violation of diocesan and school policy.

We urge anyone with relevant information to come forward and report their allegations. Additionally, we encourage anyone who has experienced or witnessed any form of abuse to seek support and assistance from the appropriate authorities and support services.

We pray that our Lord hears the cries of our brothers and sisters who have been gravely harmed and the cries of those who love them. That He soothes restless hearts with hope, steadies shaken spirits with faith and grants us the courage, wisdom, humility and grace to act with justice.