

Catholic Register

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Bishop facing sex allegations

CATHOLIC REGISTER STAFF

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The archdiocese of Toronto is investigating an allegation of sexual misconduct against Auxiliary Bishop John Knight.

Knight has been put on administrative leave since the investigation began in late February. Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic, archbishop of Toronto, informed all the priests and deacons in a letter March 1.

"I want you to hear this from me rather than from other sources," he said in his letter.

The bishop denies the allegations.

Msgr. Edward Boehler, P.H., the archdiocesan judicial vicar,

told *The Catholic Register* March 9 that the allegation was substantive enough to warrant a full ex-



Bishop Knight

amination under the official procedure for complaints about those under archdiocesan authority.

"It took a little while to gauge that it was a substantive allegation," he said. "We wanted to rule out that it was frivolous or vindictive or anonymous."

Boehler would not divulge any details about the allegations except that it would take some time to finish the investigation.

Knight, 58, has been bishop in Toronto since 1992. He currently oversees parishes in the western region of the archdiocese, mainly in Mississauga. He has been a priest since 1967 and served parishes in St. Catharines diocese until he was appointed president of the Catholic Church Extension Society (Missions Canada) in 1984. His term ended in 1990.

As bishop Knight has served on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' commission for Christian Education. He is also a member of the boards of directors of *The Catholic Register* and of the Institute for Catholic Education.

No allegations against the bishop have been reported to the police. Boehler said that it is up to the complainant, who was over 16 at the time of the alleged incident, to take it up with the police.

