APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Communique regarding Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Bransfield

On September 13, 2018, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, accepted the resignation of Bishop Michael J. Bransfield from the Office of Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. At the same time he nominated Archbishop William E. Lori, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston with the authorization to conduct a preliminary investigation into allegations of sexual harassment of adults and of financial improprieties by Bishop Bransfield.

Based on the findings of the investigation, the Holy Father has decided the following disciplinary measures for Bishop Emeritus Bransfield:

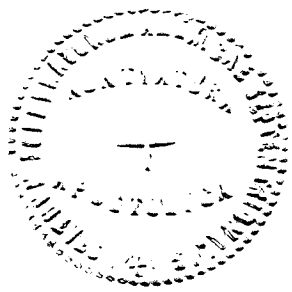
1. the prohibition to reside in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

2. the prohibition to preside or to participate anywhere in any public celebration of the Liturgy.

3. the obligation to make personal amends for some of the harm he caused; the nature and extent of the amends to be decided in consultation with the future Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston.

In taking these concrete actions, the Holy See expresses its sincere concern for the clergy, religious and laity of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

19 July 2019



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