



## Assumption Church

A FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY

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### **For Immediate Release:**

### **Assumption Church's Statement Regarding Friar James Smyka, OFM Conv.**

Recent media reports have identified Friar James Smyka, OFM Conv. as being associated with Assumption Church in Syracuse, NY. Although Friar James lived in the local St. Francis Friary from August 2014 to October 2018, which is on the same property as Assumption Church, he was not employed by the parish and was only involved at the church on a handful of occasions to preside at a weekday morning Mass. Friar James did not have involvement with youth or vulnerable adults at the church.

Assumption Church did not have any prior knowledge of any allegations against Friar James nor were any allegations brought to our attention. Any allegation of inappropriate conduct with a child or vulnerable adult by a member of the clergy, staff or volunteers would be immediately reported to the police first and then to the competent Church officials.

Assumption Church participates wholeheartedly in the Diocese of Syracuse's Safe Environment program which requires screening and training for clergy, staff and volunteers.

Assumption will have no further comment on this.

Questions may be addressed to: Friar James McCurry, Minister Provincial, Our Lady of the Angels Province at (410) 531-1400 [minprov1@olaprovince.org](mailto:minprov1@olaprovince.org)

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@AssumptionSyr

AssumptionSyr.org | 812 N Salina St, Syracuse, NY 13208 | (315) 422-4833