Vatican
Vatican News

Cindy Wooden

View Author Profile



Catholic News Service

View Author Profile

Join the Conversation

Send your thoughts to *Letters to the Editor*. Learn more

Rome — December 5, 2022
Share on BlueskyShare on FacebookShare on TwitterEmail to a friendPrint

Slovenian Jesuit Fr. Marko Rupnik, whose mosaics decorate chapels in the Vatican, all over Europe, in the United States and Australia, has been barred from hearing confessions or offering spiritual direction after what the Jesuits described as complaints about his ministry.

Italian news outlets reported the complaints were accusations of spiritually and sexually abusing adult members of a religious order of women in Slovenia.

At the beginning of October, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith "closed the case" because the statute of limitations had expired, said a note from the Jesuit headquarters dated Dec. 2.

The restrictions on Rupnik's ministry "remain in effect as administrative measures even after the response of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith," said the statement published by the Jesuit superior's delegate for "the interprovincial houses and works of the Society of Jesus in Rome."

The Jesuits also have barred Rupnik from accompanying people in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and have said he must have the permission of his superior before "exercising public activities."

Rupnik lives and works at the Centro Aletti, an international community of artists and theologians, both women and men, in Rome.

The Jesuit's statement did not provide details about the allegations beyond saying they regarded "his way of exercising his ministry" and that "no minors were involved."

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith received a complaint about Rupnik in 2021, the statement said, and asked the Jesuits to conduct a preliminary investigation, which they entrusted to a religious from another order. "Various people were invited to give evidence" and a report was submitted to the Vatican.

Multiple Italian news outlets reported that the accusations involved allegations of "psychological and sexual abuse" against women belonging to the "Skupnosti Loyola" or Loyola Community, a new religious community in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in the early 1990s when Rupnik served as a spiritual adviser.

Advertisement