

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth
For Immediate Release
July 2, 2010
For more information
Contact Pat Svacina
817-560-3300
817 996-9609 (Mobile)

Statement of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Regarding Settlement of Claim Against the Diocese Involving Rudy Renteria

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth has reached a settlement agreement through mediation of a claim brought against the Diocese by a person who was allegedly abused by Rudy Renteria

At the request of the victim, the Diocese will not disclose the identity of the individual or details of the settlement. The incident occurred while Renteria was assigned to St. Matthew Catholic Church in Arlington in 1979-1981.

Bishop Kevin Vann expressed regret for the incident.

“I am deeply sorry for any sexual abuse that any individual may have endured and suffered by Renteria or any person connected with the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth. I am deeply ashamed and truly sorry. I pray that healing and reconciliation can be achieved in your life. I have previously stated that such actions are a sin and a crime.”

Bishop Vann emphasizes that the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth will address any charge of abuse as quickly and as pastorally as possible.

“As I have stated in the past and want to reiterate now, I am committed to making sure the Diocese’s policies are adhered to in order to prevent future tragedy such as that which has befallen the victims of abuse,” he said.

The Diocese has been in compliance with the Charter’s requirements in every audit conducted since its passage in 2002. An audit by an independent auditing firm hired by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was done in Fall 2007. The Diocese was found in compliance with the Charter requirements.

The Diocese, in accordance with its policies, has actively sought victims of abuse in parishes where Renteria was assigned. Renteria was assigned to St. Matthew Catholic Church in Arlington in 1979-1981; Sacred Heart in Wichita Falls in 1981-1982; Holy

Family of Nazareth Catholic Church in Vernon. St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Crowell and St. Mary's Catholic Church Quanah in 1982-1985; St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Lewisville in 1985-1987; Holy Family Catholic Church in Fort Worth in 1987-1989 and the hospital ministry in Fort Worth and as hospital chaplain at St. Paul's Hospital in Dallas in 1989-2002.

Renteria was removed from active ministry on June 29, 2002 by the late Bishop Joseph Delaney. Bishop Vann has petitioned the Vatican to laicize Renteria, which is a process to return him to lay status. The request is pending.

The Diocese of Fort Worth asks that anyone who has either witnessed or has suffered sexual abuse by anyone who services the Church to come forward so that the individual and the Church can continue the healing process. To report abuse to the civil authorities, call the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services) at 1-800-252-5400. To report abuse to the Diocese of Fort Worth call Judy Locke, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 817-560-2452, ext. 201 or e-mail her at jlocke@fwdioc.org. Persons also can call the sexual abuse hotline, 817-560-2452, ext. 900. Or call The Catholic Center 817-560-2452, ext. 102 and ask for the Chancellor, Father E. James Hart