



ARCHDIOCESE OF AGANA

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Statement on allegation of abuse against former Chancellor

The Archdiocese of Agaña acknowledges the newest lawsuit and allegation of clergy sexual abuse filed against the archdiocese and a Catholic priest.

Father Adrian Cristobal, the former Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Agaña is the latest Guam clergyman to be named in a lawsuit alleging sexual abuse.

In the lawsuit filed against the archdiocese and Father Adrian this week, a person identified by the initials L.J.C. alleges he was sexually abused by Father Adrian while he was an altar boy at San Vicente/San Roke parish in Barrigada from about 1995 to 1997.

The archdiocese extends prayers for L.J.C and all persons who have come forward recently and in the past with claims of sexual abuse by Guam Catholic clergy or lay persons.

We take all allegations of sexual abuse very seriously. Under Archbishop Michael Byrnes, the archdiocese has revamped and strengthened our sexual abuse and sexual misconduct policy. This includes aligning our policy with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) stringent Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and implementing mandatory live and on-line training of all clergy, employees and volunteers.

Father Adrian, while a priest of the Archdiocese of Agaña, is currently off-island. He was given permission to be on mission in the Diocese of Phoenix since November of 2017, but because of the complaint filed against him, he is now being called back to Guam. While in Phoenix, Father Adrian has not been receiving a salary or honorarium from the Archdiocese of Agaña

This complaint will be handled in accordance with our sexual abuse and sexual misconduct policy. This includes notifying the Diocese of Phoenix of the claims of sexual abuse filed against Father Adrian. Note: *Two pertinent sections of our sexual abuse policy accompany this news release. You can view our overall Safe Environment policies at aganaarch.org.*

*Sent by Tony C. Diaz
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