

Press Release



Diocese of Charlotte
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Diocesan Statement Regarding Fr. Robert Yurgel

The Diocese of Charlotte was deeply saddened to learn of the sexual abuse of a teenage victim by Fr. Robert Yurgel, O.F.M. Cap., and asks for prayers for the victim, the victim's family, the perpetrator and for others who have been affected by the sinful crime of sexual abuse.

The diocese first became aware of the allegations of sexual misconduct against Fr. Yurgel when he was arrested in April of 2008.

Fr. Yurgel is a member of the Capuchin Franciscan Order and served at two parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte. From June of 1997 until July of 1999, he served at St. Matthew Catholic Church. From July of 1999 until October, of that year he served at Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church. In October of 1999 he was assigned, by the Capuchin Franciscan Order, to a ministry in New Jersey.

During Fr. Yurgel's time in Charlotte the diocese was not made aware of any complaints concerning his conduct with minors.

The Diocese of Charlotte has long been committed to protecting children and young people from sexual abuse, and to maintaining open communication in matters involving abuse by diocesan workers. The diocese adopted a sexual abuse policy in 1989 and regularly updated it until 2002 when the diocese adopted the newly created sexual abuse policy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Since adopting the charter, more than 20,000 diocesan employees, church workers and

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volunteers have gone through the sexual abuse awareness training, "Protecting God's Children." Additionally the diocese has conducted more than 19,900 background checks on employees, church workers and volunteers.

Finally, the diocese wants to emphasize its continued commitment to sexual abuse awareness and urges anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse to contact civil authorities.

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