



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Office of Communication

Immediate Release

April 8, 2010

Official Statement

Consistent with archdiocesan policy, we do not comment on the content of pending litigation. We believe that legal actions deserve a complete and objective review in a court of law.

However in the spirit of transparency we feel it is appropriate to share the following facts concerning our actions involving the ongoing investigation being conducted by the Edwards County Sherriff's Department.

The Archdiocese of San Antonio received a complaint of interference in the custody of a minor against Father John Fiala in fall of 2008. Since that time we have been working closely and in full cooperation with the Edwards County Sherriff's Department as they have conducted an ongoing investigation.

While there was no allegation of sexual misconduct, Sherriff Don G. Letsinger advised the Archdiocese of San Antonio of the investigation. Acting in full cooperation with the sheriff's department and in the best interest of the investigation it was determined by all parties that removal of Fiala from ministry was an appropriate and prudent step to take.

Archbishop Jose Gomez informed Fiala's religious order, The Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, of the investigation and that he was suspending Fiala's faculties to minister within the Archdiocese of San Antonio and his appointment as Pastoral Administrator of Sacred Heart of Mary Parish in Rocksprings, TX., St. Raymond Mission in Leakey, TX and St. Mary Magdalen Mission in Camp Wood, TX., effective October 24, 2008.

According to Fr. Gerard J. Sheehan, Superior of The Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, Fiala is not in priestly ministry.

Archbishop Gomez directed Father Martin Leopold, the Moderator of the Curia of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, to on the weekend of October 25 and 26 inform the parish community at each Mass, at each location, about our actions and the ongoing investigation into Father Fiala's activities by the Edwards County Sherriff's Department.