

ARCHDIOCESE OF AGAÑA

CHANCERY OFFICE

196 Cuesta San Ramon Ste. B • Hagåtña, Guam 96910-4334 • Tel: (671) 472-6116, (671) 562-0000 • Fax: (671) 477-3519

Archbishop Hon's Message

Re-positioning the Church Patrimony

October 1, 2016

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Heartfelt greetings of Pax et Bonum ("peace and good" St. Francis' greetings)!

I write this message to you on the Feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. It is also the beginning of the month of the Holy Rosary and of Church Mission. Most sincerely, I prayed for all of you before writing.

Since my arrival, I have had to confront the challenges facing the archdiocese, and it has been a struggle for all of us. It will require an extraordinary amount of effort and work to cope with these challenges, but with your prayers and the full cooperation of our Catholic Faithful, we can survive and recover from these immense challenges, and in particular, provide justice and some measure of closure.

In this regard, I, hereby, authorize Fr. Jeff San Nicolas, my Delegate, to re-constitute the Archdiocesan Finance Council (AFC) in order to reposition the patrimony of the Church to cope with these challenges, including but not limited to, the return of the Yona property upon which the Redemptoris Mater Seminary is now located.

I have also invited our selfless and dedicated Attorney Ed Terlaje, who has gifted his time and effort to be the Archdiocesan Legal Counsel for over 30 years, to work with the AFC to meet these immense challenges.

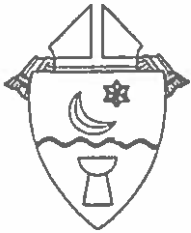
Finally, to assist in this immense effort, I have appointed Msgr. James Benavente as Delegate of the Apostolic Administrator for Church Patrimony to coordinate and to take all steps necessary to meet these challenges, effective October 1, 2016.

Again, I want to acknowledge the pain and suffering of all survivors of child sex abuse by our clergy and to say that it is our earnest and heartfelt desire that we be reconciled with all of them in the love and peace of Christ. Prayer is the real strength for unity and peace. In this month, let us pray more fervently and frequently the holy rosary, as we move forward in reconciling and unifying our Church. Thank you and May God bless you All.

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Apostolic Administrator

Celebrating our Golden Jubilee as a Diocese 1965-2016



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Supplemental Statement of the Archdiocese Re: Filing of Complaint against Monsignor James by the Catholic Cemeteries Board

Upon further investigation, which is still on going, the Archdiocese makes the following statement:

1. We have asked or are asking all board members of the Catholic Cemeteries who supported and voted for the resolution and for its release to the public to immediately resign.
2. We have also discovered that the resolution was not by unanimous consent by all board members, contrary to the certified statement by Attorney Jacqueline Terlaje.
3. There was no meeting of the board on September 30 and there was no written waiver by each board member of the notice requirements as required by the by-laws. In lieu thereof, there was no telephonic conference as required by the by-laws. Thus, the resolution adopted is invalid.
4. The Archdiocese did not authorize the release of private and confidential documents involving third parties to the public by the filing of the complaint and the release to the media. To do so would have required the consent of the third parties, which had not been obtained in this case.
5. The previous board of directors had approved the advancement of the funds and thus the advancement was proper and authorized.

We again state that the Archdiocese, after carefully reviewing all the evidence, declared, and concluded that there was no basis of the allegations against Monsignor James that led to his removal as rector of the Cathedral Basilica. The Archdiocese apologizes to Monsignor James Benavente and his family for again having to undergo the sting and pain of baseless allegations.