

Archdiocese official: Apuron's canonical trial being prepared

Haidee V Eugenio, Pacific Daily News Published 2:30 p.m. ChT Sept. 30, 2016 | Updated 8:35 p.m. ChT Sept. 30, 2016



(Photo: PDN file)

A top official of the Catholic church on Guam said Friday the Vatican is now preparing for the canonical trial of Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron, who has been publicly accused of raping and sexually abusing altar boys in Agat in the 1970s, when he was parish priest.

The Rev. Jeff San Nicolas, delegate of the Archdiocese of Agana's temporary Apostolic Administrator Archbishop Savio Hon Tai Fai, said the Vatican is in the process of formulating the court, based on what Hon shared with him. Hon recently returned from Rome. There is no date set yet for Apuron's canonical trial, San Nicolas said.

Man: 'My brother was raped by Archbishop Apuron'
(<http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2016/07/28/man-my-brother-raped-archbishop-apuron/87650568/>).

"It is not as if they have a sitting or a standing court. This kind of cases are very rare in our church so they need to put together the mechanisms, the people, in order to have that type of trial so they're in the kind of preliminary stage right now," San Nicolas said during a press conference Friday. The press conference was held to announce Monsignor James Benavente (</story/news/2016/09/29/archdiocese-hold-news-briefing/91297500/>) has been cleared of all financial mismanagement allegations against him and has been appointed pastor of Saint Anthony and Saint Victor Catholic Church.

Canon lawyer Jennifer Haselberger, an expert in church law, earlier said Vatican policy dictates that only Rome can investigate (</story/news/2016/06/08/canon-lawyer-only-vatican-can-investigate-guams-archbishop-apuron/85587714/>) bishops who are accused of sexual abuse.

Besides the canonical trial, Apuron — along with the Archdiocese of Agana and up to 50 other people — face a \$2 million libel and slander lawsuit (</story/news/2016/07/01/accusers-sue-apuron-archdiocese-libel-and-slander/86587776/>) stemming from his public statements, calling his accusers liars when they came forward to accuse him of sexually abusing and raping them in the 1970s.

Hon and Apuron ask to dismiss libel case
(<http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2016/09/13/hon-and-apuron-ask-dismiss-libel-case/90252896/>).

The Archdiocese of Agana is also bracing for possible civil lawsuits, after Guam lawmakers lifted the statute of limitations on child sex abuse cases (</story/news/2016/09/23/new-law-allows-child-sexual-abuse-victims-sue-abusers-and-their-institutions/90891502/>).

Hon recently returned from the Vatican, where he said he asked the pope to remove Apuron as archbishop (</story/news/2016/09/17/archbishop-hon-pope-francis-remove-apuron-head-archdiocese/90570618/>) of the Archdiocese of Agana, a title he still holds, although Hon is managing the local church.

San Nicolas said he does not have an answer to questions about the pope's response to Hon's request to remove Apuron, or about the lifting of a deed restriction on a Yona property that allows it to be used a seminary. Hon has said the pope instructed Apuron more than once to lift the deed restriction, but Apuron did not.

Apuron disobeys Pope Francis' order on Yona property
(<http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2016/08/18/apuron-disobeys-pope-francis-order-yona-property/88938156/>).

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INVITATION FOR BID

Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. (GBB) in its capacity as RECEIVER for the Guam Solid Waste Authority (GSWA), pursuant to the Order of the United States District Court of Guam, is soliciting bids for the construction of **LAYON LANDFILL CELLS 1 & 2 HGC CONSTRUCTION, PROJECT NO. GSWA 002-18**