



*The Roman Catholic
Diocese of Phoenix*

400 EAST MONROE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004-2336 • TELEPHONE (602) 354-2130

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Diocese of Phoenix Statement on New Allegation of Sexual Abuse Against Rev. John D. Spaulding

August 26, 2011

On June 27, 2011, an adult male contacted the Office of Child and Youth Protection at the Diocese of Phoenix and alleged that Fr. John Spaulding had sexually abused him. The allegations go back 37 years when the priest was serving at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glendale.

The caller chose to remain anonymous and did not provide his full name, address or many details regarding the alleged abuse. Paul Pfaffenberger, the Youth Protection Advocate for the Diocese of Phoenix, immediately encouraged the caller to contact the Glendale police.

Later that same day, the caller filed a complaint with the Glendale Police Department to report the assault. Glendale police have not made contact with the Diocese of Phoenix or with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish to discuss the allegations. Officials for the Diocese of Phoenix became aware of the police report on Aug. 19. It appears from the police report that the Glendale Police Department does not intend to investigate the allegation, and that it has closed its file on the matter.

Since June 27, neither Mr. Pfaffenberger nor any other Diocesan representative has spoken with the caller. Attempts by Diocesan officials to obtain a statement about the alleged abuse have been referred to the caller's attorney. Requests to participate in an interview by an outside, independent investigator have been refused by the caller's attorney.

MORE



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix

400 EAST MONROE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004-2336 • TELEPHONE (602) 354-2130

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

As of today, Diocesan officials have no specific information about the caller or facts regarding the allegation. As a result, the Diocese does not have enough information to proceed further with an investigation into this matter. To move forward, cooperation from the caller is necessary.

The Diocese can confirm that Fr. Spaulding served at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glendale between 1971 and 1975.

Fr. Spaulding was placed on administrative leave June 24, 2011, following a determination by the Diocesan Review Board that a separate allegation of sexual misconduct against the priest was credible. Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted accepted the Diocesan Review Board's determination, pursuant to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and the case will be referred to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome for further proceedings.

The previous sexual misconduct claim involved actions that allegedly occurred over 25 years ago when Fr. Spaulding was the pastor of St. Maria Goretti Parish in Scottsdale. Fr. Spaulding denies the allegation, and is fully cooperating with the investigation. He has been removed from ministry and his faculties to celebrate Mass publicly have been suspended.

As always, Bishop Olmsted and the Diocese of Phoenix encourage anyone who has experienced sexual misconduct or abuse by a member of the clergy or by any employee or volunteer of the Church to contact local law enforcement and/or Paul Pfaffenberger at the Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at (602) 354-2396.

###

Media Contacts:

Robert DeFrancesco
Director of Communications
rdefrancesco@diocesephoenix.org
(602) 354-2130