

Office of the Bishop

March 17, 2010

Ms. Judy Block Jones
SNAP Midwest Associate Director
Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests

Dear Ms. Jones,

I wish to acknowledge your e-mail of March 10, 2010 and thank you for the concern you express for justice in bringing this information to my attention. The policy of the Diocese of Tyler is to encourage possible victims to report to competent civil authorities and we cooperate with the authorities.

I have verified his indictment after your e-mail. Sadly, I have had occasion in the past to notify the people of the diocese of charges brought against priests who had served in this area, and will continue to do so. Enclosed are copies of the announcement that will appear for four Sundays in the parish bulletins and two months in the Catholic East Texas.

I recognize the role SNAP has played in bringing sexual abuse of minors to the attention of the church and the broader society. Awareness of the problem has fostered a safer environment in many areas of religious and secular life.

The Diocese of Tyler is committed to assisting victims. I believe that everyone should be treated with respect and dignity, particularly in their encounters with Church personnel. Please know that reporting of crimes is an important part of our Ethics and Integrity program and we specifically include reporting past abuse cases in our training.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Reverend Alvaro Corrada, SJ
Bishop of Tyler

cc: Ms. Sheena Kelly
Rev. Gavin Vaverek, JCL, Promoter of Justice

Most Reverend Alvaro Corrada, S.J., Bishop of Tyler



Office of the Bishop

**STATEMENT ISSUED MARCH 18, 2010
BY MOST REVEREND ALVARO CORRADA, SJ**

As bishop of the Diocese of Tyler I wish to remind the people of East Texas of the importance of reporting to legal authorities all incidents of abuse. The Diocese of Tyler is committed to cooperation with legal authorities in judicial actions.

I must inform the people of the Diocese of Tyler that Fr. Robert Frank "Bob" Poandl who served in the Mt. Vernon, Daingerfield and Pittsburg area from July 1993 until January 1999 and was involved with Marriage Encounter and Retrovaille, has been indicted in Roane County, West Virginia on three counts of sexual assault and abuse of a minor. The diocese has no information to suggest there are any victims of Fr. Poandl in our area.

Please report any local cases of sexual abuse of minors by Father Poandl to the police.

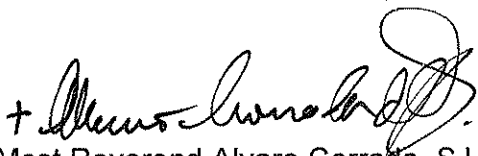
Cases of possible criminal abuse should always be reported to the local police. Abuse by clergy or Church personnel should also be reported to the Promoter of Justice, Rev Gavin Vaverek, 903 266 2159 or promoter@dioceseoftyler.org.

Como Obispo de la Diócesis de Tyler, deseo recordar a todo el pueblo del este de Texas de la suma importancia de reportar todo incidente de abuso a las autoridades legales. La Diócesis de Tyler está comprometida a cooperar con las autoridades legales en asuntos judiciales.

Debo informar al pueblo de de la Diócesis de Tyler que el Padre Robert Frank "Bob" Poandl que sirvió en las áreas de Mt. Vernon, Daingerfield, y Pittsburg de Julio 1993, hasta Enero 1999, y que estaba involucrado con Marriage Encounter (Encuentro Matrimonial) y Retrovaille, ha sido acusado de tres asaltos sexuales y abuso de un menor en el condado de Roane, West Virginia. Esta diócesis no tiene información que pueda sugerir que haya victimas del Padre Poandl en nuestra área.

Por favor reporte cualquier caso local de abuso sexual de menores de edad por el Padre Poandl a la policía.

Todo caso posible de abuso criminal debe ser reportado al Promotor de Justicia, Padre Gavin Vaverek, al 903-266-2159 o promoter@dioceseoftyler.org.


+ Most Reverend Alvaro Corrada, SJ
Bishop of Tyler

Most Reverend Alvaro Corrada, S.J., Bishop of Tyler