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Statement regarding allegation of abuse

POSTED 2 YEARS AGO BY [THE LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC STAFF \(HTTPS://LICATHOLIC.ORG/AUTHOR/MARY-IAPALUCCI/\)](https://licatholic.org/author/mary-iapalucci/)

DATE: June 29, 2019
RE: Father Joseph V. Arevalo
FROM: Sean P. Dolan, Director of Communications

It is with sadness that we inform you that an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor has been made against Father Joseph V. Arevalo, a retired priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre who has been in residence at the Church of Saint Joseph in Babylon. The alleged abuse is reported to have occurred in the 1990s, but has only recently been reported to the Diocese through the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program (IRCP) of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. It is also important to note that the Diocese is not aware that any other such allegations of misconduct have been made against Father Arevalo.

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People establishes specific guidelines when an allegation is made against a clergy member. An investigation is begun when an accusation is made. In accordance with the processes and procedures outlined in the Diocesan Child Protection Policy, the matter has been reported to the civil authorities. Father Arevalo, retired since 2014, has voluntarily stepped away from ministry and will not present himself as a priest while the required processes and procedures are undertaken. Father Arevalo has denied the allegations. It is necessary that a thorough investigation be conducted.

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People of the Diocese of Rockville Centre is committed to assisting those who have been victims of abuse by Clergy, Religious, Lay Employees and Volunteers. To report an incident of abuse, regardless of when it occurred, please contact local law enforcement and the Office for the Protection of Children and Young

People Hotline Number: 516-594-9063. Your call to that Office will be returned by a licensed mental health counselor. All calls to that Office remain confidential except to the extent the Diocese is obligated to report allegations to law enforcement.

We ask for your prayers during these days, which are difficult for all of those involved.



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