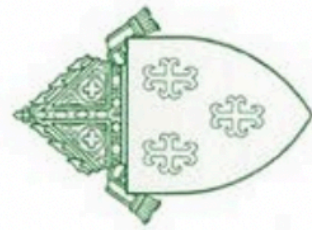




03.24.14: Diocesan Statement In Response to SNAP's News Conference

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In response to SNAP's news conference, the Diocese of Providence offers the following statement:

The past allegation concerning Father Frank Santilli was received several years ago. In accordance with normal diocesan policies, it was reported to the State Police and was carefully investigated by the Diocesan Review Board. As a result of this thorough review, the allegation was deemed to lack any credibility. Father Santilli is an exemplary pastor and continues to enjoy the total confidence and support of the Diocese of Providence.

It has been a consistent policy and practice of the Diocese of Providence to report many different issues including those of clergy sex abuse of minors to law enforcement. The diocese is not aware of any priests currently in ministry, who have credible allegations of sexual abuse of minors against them.

The diocese encourages anyone with any new information regarding allegations of clergy sexual abuse of minors to report them to State Police or local law enforcement immediately.

The Diocese of Providence welcomes any and all efforts to collaborate with law enforcement officials about these matters, as we have done in the past.

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