



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

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October 20, 2021

Dear Parishioners of St. Charles and St. Matthias,

Beginning last year, for a three-year period, the state of California once again lifted the statute of limitations for civil claims against private institutions for abuse of minors by its employees. This has led to claims being filed against the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

One of the priests named in these claims is Father David Ghiorso. The claim dates back to 30-40 years ago, and the investigation into it is still pending. This is the first time anyone has come forward with such allegations against Father Ghiorso in his 39 years of faithful priestly ministry and respected pastoral leadership. Nonetheless, in order to be compliant with the proper procedural law of the Church, Father Ghiorso is temporarily restricted from exercising any public ministry while the investigation is being conducted. Archbishop Cordileone therefore has appointed Father Samuel Musiimenta to serve as the Parish Administrator, while the claim is being investigated.

In addition, it is to be recalled that, in canon law just as in civil law, all accused enjoy the presumption of Innocence, and no conclusions are to be drawn from the simple fact of an allegation. Let us trust in the Holy Spirit and St. Joseph in this Year of St. Joseph.

Sincerely,

Rev. ZZZZ/

Reverend Andrew Spyrow
Vicar for Clergy
Archdiocese of San Francisco