

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



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October 11, 2025

St. José Sánchez Del Rio Parish
3647 W. North Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647

Dear St. José Sánchez Del Rio Parish Family,

I write to share troubling news about Father Ernest Tovar-Trejo, a priest of the Diocese of Tampico, Mexico who has visited Maternity of the Blessed Mother Church for short periods in past years and occasionally celebrated Mass there without obtaining proper permission. The Archdiocese has received an allegation against Father Tovar-Trejo of sexual abuse of a minor during his visits to Chicago many years ago. In keeping with our child protection policies, the allegation was reported to civil authorities and the person making the allegation was offered the services of our Victim Assistance Ministry. We have informed the Diocese of Tampico, which has announced that Father Tovar-Trejo has been informed he is not permitted to minister as a priest. We will cooperate with them in investigating the allegation.

Our responsibility for the welfare of the children entrusted to our care is of paramount importance to us. The Archdiocese of Chicago encourages anyone who feels they have been sexually abused by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee to come forward. They will be received with dignity and compassion. Complete information about reporting sexual abuse can be found on the archdiocesan website at www.archchicago.org.

In the meantime, as we offer pastoral care to all associated with this situation, know that you are in my prayers. We appreciate your patience and will do our best to keep you informed of developments as they occur.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hans Cardinal Cyprian".

Archbishop of Chicago