

## Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Office of the Auxiliary Bishop

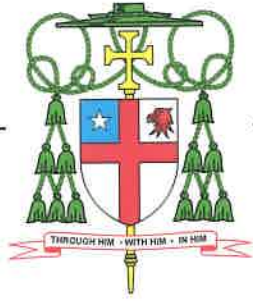
To be Read to the Parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Pius V, Sacred Heart (Conroe), St. Cecilia Parishes the Weekend of March 30-31, 2019

Dear Parishioners:

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston is committed to being transparent regarding allegations of sexual abuse of minors. It is my sad duty to inform you that the Archdiocese has recently received an allegation that Fr. Jesus Suarez, who previously served in our parish, has been accused of sexually abusing minors in Colombia, prior to coming to the United States in 1994 for priestly ministry. He has been removed as Pastor of St. Philip of Jesus while this allegation is being pursued. If you are aware of any incidents of sexual abuse of a minor, please make a report to the civil authorities immediately. As this is a difficult time for everyone, we ask that keep all involved in your prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend George A. Sheltz  
Auxiliary Bishop and Chancellor



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Office of the Auxiliary Bishop

To be read at all of the Masses the Weekend of March 30-31, 2019

Dear Parishioners of St. Philip of Jesus:

This letter is to inform you that the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has recently received an allegation against Father Jesus Suarez of sexual abuse of minors, which may have resulted in the birth of children. The alleged abuse occurred in his home country of Colombia before he came to the United States.

While we have never received any allegations of inappropriate conduct with minors against Father Suarez until this report, we take every allegation of abuse of a minor very seriously. He was informed of these allegations and has been removed from ministry while this matter is being pursued. We ask that you please withhold judgment and remember that an allegation is not a determination of guilt.

Although the alleged abuse occurred in Colombia, we have also notified the Houston Police. If you are aware of any other incidents of sexual abuse of a minor please make a report to the civil authorities (law enforcement and Children's Protective Services) immediately.

It is always tragic when we receive any allegation that a minor has been harmed. This is a very difficult time for everyone and we ask that you please keep all involved in your prayers. We have worked diligently for years to implement the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth* issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002. With the help of hundreds of volunteers and the leadership of pastors and priests, the Archdiocese has initiated a variety of programs and reporting protocols designed to prevent abusive behavior and to deal appropriately with it if it occurs.

I assure you of my prayers and support and I ask you for yours. We will continue the good work of building Christ's Kingdom here in our local Church and of providing all our children and youth a safe environment as we do so.

May the Lord continue to be our strength and consolation.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop George A. Sheltz  
Auxiliary Bishop and Chancellor