



DIOCESE OF TYLER
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STATEMENT REGARDING REV. BERNARD BOTEJU

In December 2015, the Office of the Promoter of Justice for the Diocese of Tyler was notified of an alleged incident involving Father Bernard Boteju, a retired priest of the diocese.

The allegation involved improper conduct toward an adult female while on a group trip outside the Diocese of Tyler.

In accordance with diocesan policy, Bishop Joseph E. Strickland immediately suspended Father Boteju from any priestly ministry pending an investigation of the allegation.

Out of respect for the privacy of those involved and to maintain the integrity of the investigative processes, no further information will be released at this time.

Bishop Strickland requests prayers for all involved until this matter is concluded.

As always, the Diocese of Tyler encourages anyone aware of a suspected crime to contact civil authorities (police or Texas Department of Family and Protective Services). Concerns of possible misconduct of Church personnel can be reported to the Promoter of Justice at (903) 266-2159. The Diocese of Tyler is committed to helping victims of clergy abuse and to fully cooperating with civil authorities in criminal investigations.

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