



Sex Crime Records Involving Pinoy Priests Released



Posted February 2nd, 2013 | By Opaw Nako

New details about church officials' cover-up of alleged sex crimes involving Filipino priests have emerged after the Los Angeles Archdiocese' released their records.

Files from the 1980s case involving a group of Filipino priests who reportedly raped and impregnated a then 16 year-old Rita Milla showed conversations among Filipino priest Santiago Tamayo and former cardinal Roger Mahoney and Monsignor Thomas Curry.

The church officials talked to Tamayo about staying out of the United States, according to records released.

Tamayo reportedly returned to the Philippines to avoid investigation.

A paternity test eventually confirmed that one of the priests implicated in the case, Valentin Tugade, is the father of the victim's child.

Milla eventually won a half a million-dollar settlement with the archdiocese.

The files also revealed that another victim came forward to say that she has been abused by Tamayo; as well as letters from Tamayo to Mahoney, denying that he encouraged the victim to get an abortion.

Since the release of the documents, current Los Angeles archbishop Jose Gomez has announced that Mahoney will no longer have administrative or public duties, and Curry will resign as auxiliary bishop of Santa Barbara, California.

Tamayo and another priest Angel Cruces have since passed away in the Philippines.

Steve Angeles, ABS-CBN North America Bureau

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