



Diocese of San Carlos

The Roman Catholic Bishop of San Carlos

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Diocese of San Carlos Clarifies Status of Priests Facing Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors

San Carlos City, January 30, 2025 — The Diocese of San Carlos would like to address recent concerns regarding the status of Fr. Conrado Mantac and Fr. Aron Buenacosa, who are both facing allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

Both priests remain on administrative leave and are not currently engaged in any ministerial duties. It is important to note that these cases are still under ecclesiastical review by our Diocesan Safeguarding Office, and the Diocese is steadfastly committed to cooperating with civil authorities and the Philippine Courts to ensure a fair and just process. Both institutional processes (legal and ecclesiastical) are being carried out to protect the victims and implement proper disciplinary sanctions with the accused. The aforesaid clergy are within the Diocese because our church institution is committed to properly monitoring and assuring that no one escapes accountability to legal and ecclesiastical sanctions. We want to reassure the faithful that, contrary to what is alleged, the Church is following the established protocols for the protection of minors, upholding due process for the accused, and prioritizing the safety and well-being of victims.

In response to recent claims, we wish to clarify that the participation of Fr. Mantac and Fr. Buenacosa as co-celebrants at certain liturgical events does not equate to active pastoral ministry. Their status remains unchanged, and they continue to be under administrative leave.

We recognize the deep concern these allegations may cause within our community, and we reaffirm our commitment to transparency, accountability, and synodality throughout this process. The Diocese continues to prioritize the safety of children and the protection of vulnerable individuals above all else. For this reason, the Diocese is always available for any legal inquiries about the status of the accused, aware of our accountability as a Church institution. Primarily, it is our task and duty to protect the victims and defend their dignity.

We also wish to offer support to anyone who may have been affected by these allegations. Individuals who have information related to these cases, or who wish to report an instance of abuse, are encouraged to contact Fr. Martin G. Brodit, Jr. at +639939376065 or via email at efarbro1278@gmail.com.

The Diocese remains unwavering in its dedication to upholding the highest standards of conduct, ensuring a safe environment for all, and respecting the integrity of the legal and ecclesiastical processes.

Most Rev. Gerardo A. Alminaza, D.D.
Bishop, Diocese of San Carlos