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News Release

Amanda Pertuis
Public Information Officer
December 8, 2023

STATEMENT FROM THE ST. CHARLES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE ALLEGATIONS REGARDING FATHER ANTHONY ODIONG

Luling, Louisiana December 8, 2023;

On Wednesday, December 6, 2023, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office was contacted by a representative of the Archdiocese of New Orleans who informed us that a claim in the Archdiocese Bankruptcy Case had been filed by the attorney of an unnamed fifty-four-year-old female alleging that she was a victim of inappropriate sexual "abuse" by Father Anthony Odiong in different locations around the country and that one was in St. Charles Parish years ago. We were provided the name of her attorney whom detectives immediately contacted in order to commence an investigation and determine whether or not any criminal acts may have occurred. The attorney advised our detective that she did not wish to have law enforcement involved and that the client was not willing to come forward and provide a statement at this time. The attorney was advised to notify us should the client be willing at some point in the future to cooperate.

Later, on the afternoon of December 6th, a member of the press contacted us to state that he had been advised by the attorney that her client had allegedly spoken to a detective with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office 4 years ago about these allegations. After checking with our investigative bureau, we determined that one of our detectives did field phone calls some years ago from a woman residing in another state wherein she alleged that she had a sexual relationship with Father Odiong in multiple states including one encounter in St. Charles Parish. At that time, the events she described to our detective, if in fact they occurred, appeared to be consensual. At least one subsequent phone conversation occurred between our detective and the woman wherein it again appeared that her description of the alleged sexual encounter in St. Charles Parish, if it in fact occurred, did not constitute a criminal act. She was so informed by the detective at that time. There was no further communication between her and anyone with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office.