



Memo

Re: Fr. Honesto Agustin
From: Bishop Mueggenborg
Date: April 30, 2024

I published a brief memo on April 25 regarding the removal of Fr. Honesto Agustin from ministry, which has generated some concerns that call for clarification. As some of you may have seen or heard, a suspicious social media account and duplicate account with Fr. Honesto's name and likeness was recently posted that revealed a 10 second video of Fr. Honesto undressed alone in his home. Once made aware of the video, the Diocese retained an independent investigator with expertise in digital imaging and computer forensics to investigate the situation. The video is unquestionably Fr. Honesto, and the investigator concluded that it was very unlikely that the video was AI-generated.

A complaint has already been filed with law enforcement against the person believed to have created the fake accounts and postings of the video.

To the best of our knowledge, no crimes were committed by Fr. Honesto.

However, out of an abundance of caution, and in consultation with my advisors, I decided to remove Fr. Honesto from his duties at St. Albert the Great Parish and urged him to consider retiring, to which he agreed. Meanwhile, the investigation is expected to be finalized in the very near future. I have been in communication with the Diocesan Adult Misconduct Review Board throughout this matter and have convened a meeting to obtain advice regarding next steps.

If anyone has any information related to this matter or any other concerns, please contact Joseph Bell at 775-372-9786.