

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth  
For Immediate Release  
September 15, 2008  
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## **Media Advisory**

As a follow up to a Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth news release issued on September 8, 2008, diocesan officials have received two additional credible accusations of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest against deceased Benedictine Order priest Father Francis A. Zimmerer.

The new credible accusations occurred on separate occasions while Father Zimmerer served as the parish administrator of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, located at 1305 Deer Park Rd. in Decatur, from January 1975 through May 1981. Both victims were minors at the time.

The new credible accusations were lodged after the diocese's announcement last week that a credible accusation was received on August 25, 2008 that a now 42-year-old man living out-of-state was abused in 1978 by Father Zimmerer, a member of the Benedictine Order based in Subiaco, Ark., when the victim was a 11-year-old member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church.

The Fort Worth Catholic Diocese has offered counseling to the all victims.

To reiterate, the diocese's Safe Environment Program requires a safe environment for children and youth. Likewise, Article 12 of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," requires that dioceses establish "safe environment" programs and gives the necessary elements of such a program.

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth encourages anyone who has suffered sexual abuse by a priest or anyone who serves the church to contact Victim Abuse Coordinator Judy Locke at (817) 560-2452, Ext. 201 or Father Hart at (817) 560-2452, Ext. 104.

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