



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



Statement by Bishop Michael F. Olson regarding Conviction
of a Volunteer for Sexual Abuse of a Minor

February 27, 2019

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth and I are saddened and appalled that young children were the victims of sexual abuse, particularly by someone who they and their parents trusted. We pray for them, and for all who have been sexually abused. We greatly appreciate the dedication and commitment of the law enforcement authorities with whom we were blessed to work with in the prosecution of volunteer Frank Garcia, who was also known as Francisco Guevara.

Through the courage of a parishioner in bringing this to our attention, we were able to immediately remove Mr. Garcia/Guevara from his position as a lay volunteer, file a report with both Child Protective Services and law enforcement authorities, provide counseling services to the victim and family, and call for any other victims. Courageous reporting of abuse, suspected abuse, or even of warning signs of grooming can rescue victims or potential victims from terrible torment. Anyone in the Diocese of Fort Worth who has such concerns is urged to report them by going to <https://fwdioc.org/report-abuse-concern> to contact the Diocesan Director of Safe Environment.

We are also thankful for the efforts of our Victims' Assistance Office in all that was done to assist these victims. We call on anyone who has been abused by a member of the Diocese's clergy, staff or volunteer to first and immediately contact law enforcement and, next, contact the Victims' Assistance Office at 817-945-9345.

Note: The abuse occurred at St. John the Apostle Parish, located in North Richland Hills, in 2008 and 2009, but were first reported to the Diocese in 2016 when a victim came forward.