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STATEMENT

Diocese responds to charge

At a press conference earlier this week, a California man alleged he had had sexual relations nearly 20 years ago with Rev. Charles Celeste, who is now pastor of Holy Family parish in Little Falls. At the time, both men were adults.

In response, the Diocese of Albany issued the following statement:

"This matter involved an allegation from approximately 20 years ago between two adults. While this type of behavior is extremely inappropriate for a priest, at this time the Diocesan Review Panel did not recommend that the priest be removed from ministry.

"However, the Diocese, upon investigation and appropriate evaluation of the situation, has responded and continues to handle this matter in a proper fashion. As best we know, the priest has been leading a celibate life for many years.

"As has been documented, the Albany Diocese continues to take these matters very seriously, and has, in many instances, removed priests when it was appropriate."

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