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Statement Re Court Proceeding of 3/14/05

By Michael Tedesco and Doug Mandelato
Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester
March 14, 2005

The Diocese of Rochester, in 2002, asked Rev. Michael Volino to undergo assessment at St. Luke's Institute, to which Rev. Volino agreed. The referral and assessment were related to behavioral issues and not to sexual abuse.

The recommendations of St. Luke's staff were not issued in the context of a person who was sexually abusive. However, the diocese failed to adequately monitor the follow through of some of the recommendations. The report did not give any finding, nor did the Diocese interpret any indication, that Fr. Volino would be a danger to anyone.

Review of the monitoring process is already underway within the diocese to ensure that more stringent procedures are put in place.

"We are working diligently to implement a strategy that helps assure that does not happen again," said Bishop Matthew H. Clark. "I want to emphasize that Father Volino has never, to this day, been the subject of any allegation of sexual abuse."

Bishop Clark yesterday celebrated Mass with parishioners at St. John the Evangelist and reaffirmed for them that the diocese has never received an allegation of sexual misconduct on Rev. Volino's part.

He reminded and encouraged those in attendance that anyone with concerns or allegations of sexual misconduct by any diocesan employee or volunteer should contact the diocese's victim advocates as soon as possible and he pledged full cooperation with authorities.

Victims of abuse always have a right to report to the civil authorities. To report a case of possible sexual abuse and to receive help and guidance from the Diocese of Rochester, victims are encouraged to contact the victims' assistance coordinators appointed by Bishop Clark: Barbara Pedeville: 585/328-3228, ext. 1215, or 800/388-7177, ext. 1215; or Father Robert Ring, 315/730-0882.

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