

Rev. Jesus Eduardo Martinez-Solis

It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that I inform you of substantiated allegations of sexual misconduct and sexual grooming of a minor by Father Jesus Eduardo Martinez-Solis.

I received this report through the Archdiocesan Misconduct Hotline on July 25, 2023. On July 26, Father Martinez was removed from ministry and the Comal County Sheriff's Department was notified of the report.

Upon the recommendation of the Archdiocesan Review Board, which assessed the report, I opened a preliminary canonical investigation into the allegation, which was conducted with the assistance of an independent private investigator. The Archdiocesan Review Board reviewed the investigation and advised me that there was sufficient evidence of sexual misconduct with a minor to require that I refer the matter to the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith for their judgement on the matter. The Review Board further recommended that Father Martinez poses a continuing risk to minors, that he should not be returned to ministry, and that the affected communities should be notified of my decision.

I have removed Father Martinez' faculties and have prohibited him from exercising any priestly ministry and from using clerical clothes or clerical titles.

Our investigation highlighted the importance of our Code of Conduct and guidelines for ministry with minors, and of the value of our Virtus training, which helped us address this misconduct in a timely manner and prevent more serious abuse. I would like to express my gratitude and respect to the minor teen who bravely came forward and helped our Church by participating in the investigation. I hope that this will provide inspiration to other's who experience sexual misconduct to report to the authorities these tragic incidents.

The Archdiocese takes seriously any allegation of sexual misconduct with children. The safety and wellbeing of all people are very important, and the Church's safe environment policies seek to protect all of God's children. We encourage anyone who is a victim of sexual abuse to contact the police. We also ask that victims within the Archdiocese contact the Office for Victim Assistance and Safe Environment at (210) 734-7786. Any violation of the Code of Conduct can be reported through the third-party Archdiocesan Misconduct Hotline at (844) 709-1169.

I pledge my commitment to continue to work toward making every Catholic Church, school and institution a safe harbor for all of our children. Please join me in prayer as we reach out to any and all who may be victims of sexual abuse.

*Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS*