



Office of the Bishop

Most Reverend Joseph E. Strickland, Bishop of Tyler

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STATEMENT REGARDING REV. BERNARD BOTEJU

The diocese has completed its investigation of the allegations brought forth concerning Rev. Bernard Boteju's improper conduct toward adult females on a trip outside the diocese last fall. There is no evidence of a civil crime or of a canonical delict. In accordance with diocesan policy, Bishop Joseph E. Strickland is allowing Rev. Boteju to again exercise priestly ministry with limited restrictions. He will no longer be involved with pilgrimages and refrain from being alone with any woman.

Out of respect for the privacy of those involved no further information will be released. Bishop Strickland requests prayers for all involved in this situation.

As always, the Diocese of Tyler encourages anyone aware of a suspected crime to contact civil authorities (police or Texas Department of Family and Protective Services). Concerns of possible misconduct of Church personnel can be reported to the Promoter of Justice at (903) 266-2159. The Diocese of Tyler is committed to helping victims of clergy abuse and to fully cooperating with civil authorities in criminal investigations.

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Most Reverend Joseph E. Strickland
Bishop of Tyler

