

Press Release 4-4-07

Diocese of Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann's Statement on Sexually Abuse Lawsuits

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth expresses its deep concern for four men who have alleged in law suits filed in recent days that they were sexually abused by former priests who served in the diocese. The diocese has received the lawsuit which was filed in an Eastland County court.

Any form of sexual abuse of children is a tragic violation of an individual's God-given right to exercise control over their own bodies and their own behavior. Keeping children and young people safe from inappropriate sexual behavior is a high priority of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth.

We are communicating with these individuals who filed the suits in Eastland County and are extending counseling services. One of the individuals is already receiving counseling.

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth will cooperate with the court as well as with the victims as it works through this situation.

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth invites anyone who wishes to report sexual misconduct on part of anyone who serves the church to contact Victims Abuse Coordinator Judy Locke at (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or Father Michael Olson at (817) 560-2452 ext. 107.

Note to Editors: If you have any questions or need more information, contact Communications Director Pat Svacina at (817) 560-3300 ext. 318 or via mobile at (817) 996-9609.