

August 27, 2014

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Email: archbishop@archagana.org

Most Reverend Anthony Sablan Apuron, OFM Cap., D.D.
Metropolitan Archbishop of Agaña
196B Cuesta San Ramon
Hagåtña, GU

Dear Archbishop:

Attached is a letter regarding Fr. John Wadeson which was sent to you one month ago. To date I have received no response or guidance from you, so I must assume that no action has been taken on this matter. Since it appears that a violation of our Archdiocesan Policy on Sexual Abuse has occurred I am concerned about the liability to the Archdiocese, both legally and morally.

This situation also points to a weakness in our policy, since you are currently the sole individual to determine if any action should be carried out, and also a potential violator of the policy. An apparent conflict of interest exists, which brings to light the need for a modification of the policy to handle such situations. Likewise, should an instance of misconduct be reported against the SARC or other individuals tasked with administering our policy arise, there should be alternate steps to manage and follow the policy without the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Several concerns arise in reviewing what little I know about the Fr John Wadeson situation. As mentioned previously, Section III.C. of our policy requires the Archdiocese to conduct *"background checks and other standard means of assessing one's potential for sexual misconduct."* Was a background check conducted for Fr John Wadeson? This also raises the question of background checks for our seminarians. Since most of them come from off-island, what type of background checks are done for the men and women coming to Guam from the US and foreign countries? Additionally, are psychological exams being conducted by competent individuals on our seminarians either when they enter the seminary, or before they are ordained? Should there be any future accusation of sexual misconduct, then the documentation on these questions are important in order to show we took reasonable steps to provide a safe environment for the people of Guam.

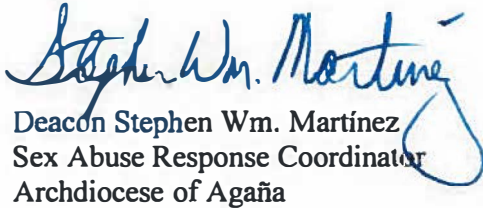
Another concern is whether the Archdiocese of San Francisco was notified about the allegations against Fr John when he was sent to work with the people of that Archdiocese. And more recently, since Fr John is incardinated in our Archdiocese, we remain responsible for his actions. Do we know where Fr John is? And more importantly, wherever he is, has the diocese in that location been notified of his suspended status in LA, Guam, and San Francisco?

Once again, Archbishop Anthony, I urge you to have an independent investigator appointed to review the situation so that we may have a full understanding of what went wrong and how we can avoid similar situations in the future. And since Fr John is now our responsibility, after a full investigation a determination should be made on his future role with the Archdiocese of Agana.

Lastly, I believe the other questions raised in this letter could and should be addressed by the Review Board, our legal counsel, and the special counsel appointed to address any issues related to our policy. I urge you in the strongest terms possible to call for a meeting so that these important issues can be addressed. Failure to do so would look like a conflict of interest was the reason the Archdiocese failed to act.

My job as SARC requires me to "coordinate the Archdiocese's response", and in order to carry out this responsibility I must insist on your cooperation in this matter. Please let me know when we may meet to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Deacon Stephen Wm. Martinez
Sex Abuse Response Coordinator
Archdiocese of Agaña

Attachment: July 28 Letter to Archbishop Anthony

Cc: Archbishop Martin Krebs, Apostolic Nuncio
Msg. David C. Quitugua, Vicar General
Edward S. Terlaje, Legal Counsel
Rodney Jacob, Special Counsel
Review Board Members:
Mariles Benavente, MSW
Dr. George Kallingal
Sr. Trini Pangelinan, RMS
Vincent Pereda, MSW
Dr. Juan Rapadas