



DIOCESE OF CHEYENNE

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Response to Affidavits Regarding Sex Abuse

Today the Diocese of Cheyenne learned that, after a 16 month investigation into sex abuse allegations, the Cheyenne Police Department (CPD) filed affidavits of probable cause with the Laramie County District Attorney's Office. The affidavits involve one Catholic clergyman and another Catholic lay person. The Diocese of Cheyenne cooperated fully with the police investigation and will continue to cooperate with District Attorney Manlove, if requested.

Because the CPD did not identify either individual, the Diocese will not take the liberty to comment on their possible identity so as to respect the judicial process. The CPD's press release described the second person as a person "attempting to become a clergyman," which has caused significant speculation in the media. Since the CPD did not communicate with the Diocese regarding the rationale for such a description, we are not sure of their intent. In our estimation, the second person was likely an adult "altar server" at the time of the alleged crime. If so, that would make him a lay man. However, it will be necessary for the CPD to clarify their statement with the public.

Bishop Biegler asks for prayers for all abuse victims, their family members, and all Church or public officials involved in this matter. He said, "I commend all the victims who have come forward to report sexual abuse to the police or the Diocese of Cheyenne. Thank you for your courage to step forward. If anyone has been abused, no matter how long ago, I encourage you to come forward. We will listen to you and accompany you on a journey of healing."

If anyone has suffered sexual abuse, contact the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Family Services. Upon notification of authorities or if you have questions, please contact the Chancellor, Patti Loehrer at 307-638-1530 or the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Adams at 307-220-0485.