

March 11, 2021

Bishop Daniel Garcia
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Monterey
485 Church Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Via: Emails bjohnson@dioceseofmonterey.org & SMayer@dioceseofmonterey.org
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Dear Bishop Garcia,

We run an organization called Clean The Church and frequently receive tips and whistleblower allegations relating to inappropriate acts and behaviors of clergy members and diocesan employees.

In October of 2020 we received a series of whistleblowers reports with allegations of inappropriate behaviors of certain seminarians and clergy members in the St. John's Seminary of Camarillo.

Unfortunately and sadly, after our preliminary investigations, these allegations are turning out to be very serious and convincingly credible. Although certain elements of the facts were provided to us in strict confidentiality, we find the need to inform you and Ms. Susan Mayer so you can take appropriate and immediate action as they involve one or perhaps more members of your clergy staff.

The whistleblowers allege that then seminarian and now Fr. Gerson Espinoza Velazco sexually abused several seminarians and most likely raped a fellow seminarian while studying at the St. John's Seminary. They further allege and are willing to testify that Espinoza had an intimate and active sexual relationship with Fr. Marco Durazo that started in or around September of 2018, shortly after Durazo became the director of the seminary. Espinoza used this relationship with Durazo as a position of power to perpetrate his crimes. It further appears that Marco Durazo is, according to the allegations, an active homosexual predator and he is using his position to harass and sexually abuse seminarians. Seminarians that refuse to engage in sexual relations with Durazo are asked to leave the Seminary. We have proven the allegation against Durazo to be credible and so far, corroborated.

Please accept this letter as a formal notice and please take immediate action. Gerson Espinoza is, as we understand, the head of your Diocese' Youth Ministry. As such, he is in a position where, if the allegations are correct, could be engaging in homosexual acts with the youth and/or other members of clergy and staff creating a clear and present danger to the community and a liability to the Diocese while leading souls a straight.

We expect your full cooperation and your immediate action and investigation of Gerson Espinoza and Marco Durazo including notifying the authorities and the removal of both of these individuals from their positions while you and the authorities conduct investigations. The allegations that I describe above are just the tip of the iceberg, I am afraid. If you or any of your staff would like to make a statement or announce the actions that you will be taking in this matter, contact me at 747-202-2490.

Yours,

John Paul Norris

cc: Susan Mayer, General Counsel