

MICHAEL C. BARBER, S.J.  
BISHOP OF OAKLAND



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March 30, 2019

Dear Parishioners of Corpus Christi Parish,

I am saddened to inform you I have placed Father David Mendoza-Vela on administrative leave. On Friday, March 29, the Diocese of Oakland learned that Father Mendoza-Vela had been arrested on Thursday evening. While we do not have all the details, the alleged behavior is in clear violation of the Diocese's code of conduct and the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

The Diocese has been in contact with Fremont law enforcement and is following its internal protocols. This means, while the situation is being investigated, Father Mendoza-Vela may not present himself in public as a priest nor engage in any priestly ministry. As is normative for such a process, the Diocese will not provide any further information during the investigation.

Anyone with information they believe relevant to this case should contact the Fremont Police Department immediately at 510-790-6800.

I will be appointing a temporary parochial administrator for the parish as soon as possible.

We are committed to a safe environment for all. Anyone who has information concerning an allegation of sexual misconduct by a clergy member or any diocesan employee or volunteer should contact the local civil authority, i.e. police or sheriff department, and the Chancellor for the Diocese of Oakland, Mr. Stephen Wilcox, [swilcox@oakdiocese.org](mailto:swilcox@oakdiocese.org) or 510-267-8334.

I ask you to join with me in prayers for all involved in this situation, but most especially anyone who has been harmed. Thank you for your prayers and your witness of faith. As the body of Christ, your commitment to our Lord and to one another will carry your faith community through this situation.

Please know I am holding each of you in my prayers and I stand in solidarity with you during this difficult time, especially during this holy season of Lent. As we receive more information I will be updating you. With the assurance of my blessing, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '+Michael Barber S.J.' with a small cross at the beginning.

The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, S.J.  
Bishop of Oakland

*For the greater glory of God*