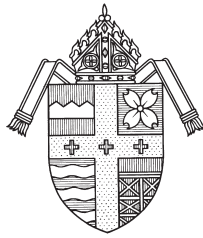

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Knoxville

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PRESS RELEASE AND MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release

April 19, 2010

Statement on developments in abuse case

Greene County officials took Father Bill Casey into custody early on Monday, April 19, said Deacon Sean Smith, chancellor of the Diocese of Knoxville.

Last week Warren Tucker contacted the diocese to say that Father Casey, a priest of the Diocese of Knoxville, had sexually abused him in the 1970s. The following day Father Casey told Bishop Richard Stika there was “credibility” to the accusations.

In a letter that was to be read last weekend at all East Tennessee parishes, Bishop Stika wrote, “I ask you to join me in praying for all victims of abuse throughout the world. I also ask you to pray for Father Casey. God’s mercy knows no bounds, but for Father Casey, who must now answer to the justice that is due, we pray that his own prayers and penance will bring divine assistance in bringing healing to the victims and to our local Church.”

In the letter, Bishop Stika apologized to Mr. Tucker and to anyone else who may have been harmed by Father Casey or by anyone in authority in the diocese. “I applaud Mr. Tucker and all the brave men and women—the victims and their families—for seeking healing and justice, and I strongly encourage any victim of abuse to come forward.”

Bishop Stika's statement, continued