

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth  
For Immediate Release  
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## **Statement of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Regarding Settlement Agreement of a Third Lawsuit Against the Diocese Involving Thomas Teczar**

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth has reached a settlement agreement through mediation of a lawsuit brought against the diocese by a person who was allegedly abused by Thomas Teczar.

At the request of the victim, the diocese will not disclose the identity of the victim, details of the settlement, nor the amount of the settlement. As part of the diocese's commitment to the victim's healing process, the request for confidentiality will be honored.

Bishop Kevin Vann repeated his concerns for victims of the abuse: "I apologize to all victims for any abuse they have encountered at the hands of Thomas Teczar, personally and in the name of the church. I petition the Lord for forgiveness, reparation and healing for each victim, their families and for any other victims.

"The sexual abuse of anyone, especially minors, is repulsive to me. It is a sin and a crime. That it is done by a priest is disheartening. It results in a tragic damage to your faith, your families and the public at large. As a priest, I am embarrassed, disheartened, appalled and angered by this behavior."

Bishop Vann is working with Worcester, MA Bishop Robert J. McManus, STD in support of his request for the laicization—removal from priesthood—of Teczar. Teczar is permanent priest of the Worcester Catholic Diocese. He was a visiting priest in the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth.

Bishop Vann stresses that the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth will address any charge of abuse as quickly and as pastorally as possible

The Diocese has been in compliance with the Charter's requirements in every audit conducted since their passage in 2002. An audit by an independent auditing firm

hired by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was done in Fall 2007. The diocese was found in compliance with the Charter requirements.

The diocese, in accordance with its policies, has actively sought victims of abuse in Eastland County parishes and other parishes where Teczar was assigned.

Teczar was convicted and sentenced to a 25-year prison term in March 2007 for sexual assault and indecency with a minor. In April 2005 and in December 2007, the diocese reached settlements with other victims of Teczar. At the request of the victims, those settlement agreements are confidential.

To report abuse to the civil authorities, call the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services) at 1-800 252-5400. To report abuse to the Diocese of Fort Worth call Judy Locke, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 817 560-2452, ext. 201 or e-mail her at [jlocke@fwdioc.org](mailto:jlocke@fwdioc.org). Persons also can call the sexual abuse hotline, 817 560-2452, ext. 900. Or call The Catholic Center 817 560-2452, ext. 107 and ask for the Vicar General, Father Michael Olson.