



## Diocese of Madison

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For Immediate Release

### Statement

**(Madison)** The Diocese of Madison offers the following brief statement, regarding the sentencing of Mr. Rajnal Rehmat, a former religious order brother from Pakistan who had worked briefly at a parish in the diocese.

On Wednesday, April 5, 2023, the Diocese of Madison learned along with the public of the sentencing of Rajnal Rehmat to two years in prison for his sexual misconduct with a 17-year-old girl he met while serving a northeastern Dane County parish. Mr. Rehmat, 31, pled guilty in February to child enticement.

Today, with Mr. Rehmat's admission of guilt, sentencing, and statement of sincere apology to the victim, her family, as well as to the Church and the public, justice has been served. However, the need for healing remains. For many, first and foremost the victim and her family, as well as of those affected in the community, personal wounds remain. We pray that everyone affected by these sinful and criminal acts can find the psychological, emotional, and spiritual healing needed.

The diocese humbly appreciates Assistant District Attorney Annie Jay's statement that, "despite allegations in recent years concerning sexual abuse of children by Catholic clergy, this was not an instance in which there was any allegation the church attempted to cover up that contact. She said the Diocese reported the contact to authorities after learning about it." The diocese renews our continuing promise to remain vigilant regarding protecting the youth and young people from any and all abuse, and report to, and work with, law enforcement officials if and when we ever become aware of an allegation of abuse.

*As always, any allegation of sexual misconduct should be brought to the attention of law enforcement officials. If allegations involve priests, deacons, or other Church personnel, regardless of when they are said to have occurred, they should also be reported to the Diocese of Madison, by way of the Sexual Misconduct Question and Reporting Line, 608-821-3162. The safety of the children, youth, and the vulnerable remains our highest priority and we continue to work daily to maintain safety in all regards. All employees, teachers and volunteers must pass background checks and we follow closely all diocesan policies regarding the protection of children. The diocesan policies regarding sexual abuse allegations, and instructions for making a report of sexual misconduct, are available on the diocesan website: [madisondiocese.org/safe-environment](https://madisondiocese.org/safe-environment).*

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