



Diocese of Madison
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**MEDIA
STATEMENT**

June 27, 2024
For Immediate Release

Statement from the Diocese of Madison Regarding the Criminal Complaint against Marco Melendez

On June 25, 2024, the Diocese of Madison was informed of a criminal complaint filed the same day in Milwaukee County Circuit Court against Mr. Marco Melendez, who was employed as Director of Music and school teacher at St. Maria Goretti Parish in Madison from 2020 to 2023. The criminal complaint pertains to alleged sexual misconduct in Milwaukee County in 2017 and 2019, prior to the time of Mr. Melendez's employment at the parish in Madison. The individual in question was fully vetted according to the Diocese of Madison Safe Environment protocols at the time of his hire in 2020. Diocesan and parish officials were not aware of any prior sexual misconduct by the individual at the time of his hire nor was any of them aware of any allegation of impropriety on his part during the time of his employment at the Madison parish. The individual left employment at the Madison parish of his own accord in 2023, and no longer resides in the Madison area. The diocese respects the ongoing investigative and judicial integrity of the criminal case in Milwaukee County, including the presumption of innocence for the defendant, and the desire for justice to be served.

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 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: <https://madisondiocese.org/safe-environment>.

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