



Diocese of Madison
702 S. High Point Rd.
Suite 225
Madison, WI 53719
608-821-3033

**MEDIA
STATEMENT**

**August 6, 2024
For Immediate Release**

Statement from the Diocese of Madison Regarding the Conclusion of the Investigation Conducted in Response to the Allegations against Marco Melendez

On June 25, 2024, the Diocese of Madison received the disturbing news of allegations against Marco Melendez, who was Director of Music at St. Maria Goretti Parish from 2020 to 2023. The allegations concerned events in Milwaukee County in 2017 and 2019, prior to Mr. Melendez's employment in the Diocese of Madison.

Prior to June 25, diocesan and parish officials were not aware of any allegation of sexual impropriety on Mr. Melendez's part. The Diocese invited anyone with information about misconduct to contact the confidential Reporting Line (608-821-3162) and engaged the services of an outside consultant to conduct interviews with those who came forward with information and those who worked closely with Mr. Melendez. The diocesan investigation is now concluded. It found no evidence of sexual impropriety during Mr. Melendez's time of employment with St. Maria Goretti Parish.

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.

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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>.

Contact Information:

Kris Kranenburg
Director of Communications
Diocese of Madison
Kris.kranenburg@madisondiocese.org
608-821-3168