



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Archbishop

Dear Parishioners of St. Rose of Lima:

July 5, 2016

On May 16, 2016, I met with a small group of parishioners and others concerning a number of allegations that they were making against Fr. Pedro Corces. As I pointed out in my previous letter to the school and parish communities, much of what was presented in their 200+page dossier was based on long discredited gossip, misinformation and falsehoods. However, the group alleged that Father Corces had engaged in improper behavior with certain employees of the parish. And at the meeting they gave me some documentation that they obtained through a private detective who had conducted some surveillance of Father Corces. The next day, I met with Father Corces who denied any sexual impropriety. But, it was necessary to investigate to determine if any of these allegations were sustainable.

The investigation of these allegations is now completed. Based on the outcome of extensive interviews of all persons that could have knowledge of the truth of these allegations as well as the results of a voluntary polygraph examination of Fr. Corces, it is concluded that no sexual impropriety had occurred. Nevertheless, Father's decision to hire friends to work for the parish and his continued socializing with them outside the parish did contribute to the perception among some of inappropriate behavior.

On a positive note, St. Rose of Lima Parish and School were in compliance with the Archdiocese of Miami Safe Environment protocols during Fr. Corces' administration and no one hired or employed by Father Corces represented a risk to minors.

The investigation did identify other deficiencies with Fr. Corces' administration in which he failed to follow clear Archdiocesan policies. These have been directly and appropriately addressed by my administration with Father for corrective action. Father Corces has indicated that he would prefer an assignment in which he would not have to undertake the administrative responsibilities of a pastor. I have accepted his resignation as pastor of St. Rose of Lima.

During these past weeks and days, I have received many letters from many people telling me what a positive influence Father Corces and his ministry have played in their lives. Father has many gifts to share with God's people but running a parish does not seem to be one of them. I will seek to reassign him to a position in which he can share these gifts but without the responsibilities of parochial administration.

This has been a trying time for the people of St. Rose of Lima and for all concerned. Father Corces himself regrets any pain that any acts of his, whether of commission or omission, caused you. During this Year of Mercy, let us pray for each other confident that God's love for each of us is bigger and stronger than the sum total of our defects and failings. I encourage you to move forward as a parish and welcome your new pastor and new principal.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev Thomas Wenski
Archbishop of Miami

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