



# DIOCESE OF MONTEREY

Office of Communications

831-373-2919  
FAX 831-373-1175

whoy@dioceseofmonterey.org  
www.dioceseofmonterey.org

For Immediate Release  
April 17, 2009

Contact: Warren Hoy  
831-333-6874

## DIOCESE OF MONTEREY'S STATEMENT ON THE ARREST OF FR. ANTONIO CORTES

The Diocese of Monterey learned yesterday evening of the arrest of Reverend Antonio Cortes for several counts of sexual misconduct involving a child under the age of 18. The Diocese of Monterey pledges its cooperation with the Salinas Police Department and the Monterey County District Attorney's Office as this case moves forward.

The Diocese of Monterey is committed to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and has a zero tolerance for sexual misconduct involving children or young people. Bishop Garcia has suspended Fr. Cortes, and he has no faculties to function as a priest; this action is in accordance with the Charter and Diocesan policy. At the conclusion of the criminal proceedings, the Diocese of Monterey will comply with the Charter, its own policies and Canon law (Church law) in determining the next steps for Fr. Cortes.

In the meantime, we would like to urge anyone with any information on this case to contact the Salinas Police Department. If you know of anyone who may be a victim of sexual misconduct involving Fr. Cortes, please contact the Salinas Police Department. Contact: Detectives Lalo Villegas (831) 758-7348 or Luis Bravo (831) 758-7124 or the Salinas Police Department Anonymous Crime Tip Line at 831-775-4222 or WE-TIP at 1-800-78-CRIME.

Bishop Garcia is deeply saddened by this incident and offers his prayers for all those involved especially the victim and the St. Mary's community.

###