



ST. AUSTIN CATHOLIC PARISH

Served by the Paulist Fathers

September 16, 2018

A STATEMENT OF CONCERN

We, as priests, struggle with feelings of sadness, anger and disbelief over the widespread news of abuse shaking the walls of our Catholic communities around the world. We share feelings of bewilderment and helplessness caused by a structure we have trusted and loved enough to commit our lives to its service. And, today, it is hard to know how to best serve our parish communities, given the current environment and the limitations of each of our positions in the church. So, in my capacity as Pastor, I am seeking to do what I can and foster as much transparency, action and healing as possible in the St. Austin community. And, it is in that spirit, I want to share information related to our parish history.

Fr. Rocco Perone, CSP was a Paulist priest who was in residence here at St. Austin from late 1957 until August 1988 as a missionary, going around to other parishes giving missions and retreats. He also worked for a while in India with Mother Teresa of Calcutta. He retired here in Austin in 1988. He died in May of 1992 and is buried in Assumption Cemetery. He was accused (I believe after his death) of abusing children in Portland, OR.

Out of concern for any potential victims, I want to clarify that Fr. Rocco Perone would have had some contact with altar servers and St. Austin School students. To date, no accusations against Fr. Perone have been made during his time here at St. Austin. However, we want to make sure we are accurate and transparent about his presence on our campus and provide open channels for reporting.

If you have information about any inappropriate contact with Fr. Rocco Perone, or about anyone else, or any other area of concern, please contact Ms. Emily Hurlimann at the Diocese of Austin Office of Ethics and Integrity in Ministry at 512-949-2447. We publish her number every week in the bulletin. OR you can call Fr. John Behnke, the Vice-President of the Paulist Fathers at 212-757-8072 ext. 229, OR you can call me, Fr. Chuck Kullmann, at 512-477 -9471 ext. 328 or email me at ckullmann@staustin.org.

Let us pray there are no victims of inappropriate or criminal acts of Fr. Rocco Perone or by anyone here in Austin. But if there are, let us move quickly to do whatever we can to promote healing and justice.

God bless!

Fr. Chuck Kullmann, CSP

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