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INFORMATION ON RAMON AYMERICH

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The Buffalo News reported this morning that the Diocese of Buffalo has added the name of an Episcopal priest with ties to the Diocese of Western New York to its list of clergy and former clergy who are the subjects of credible claims of child sexual abuse.

The Rev. Ramon Aymerich, who now lives in Medellín, Colombia, was received into the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Western New York in 1982, ordained a deacon in this diocese in November 1983 and a priest in April 1984. According to our records, he was not employed by any congregations in the Diocese of Western New York at any time. He was called to a job in the Diocese of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in December 1983, and he was officially transferred to that diocese when he became a priest.

Bishop Sean Rowe learned of these allegations in July from Bishop Alan Gates of the Diocese of Massachusetts, the Episcopal diocese which now has authority over Aymerich. Bishop Gates reported that Bishop Edward M. Grosz, auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, had notified him of two reports alleging sexual misconduct by Aymerich during the time he served as a priest in the Diocese of Buffalo.

Bishop Gates' office has notified the Erie County sheriff's office of the allegations relayed to him by Bishop Grosz. Bishop Gates has also opened an investigation under the disciplinary canons of the Episcopal Church, restricted Aymerich's ability to function as a priest, and informed the congregations in the Diocese of Massachusetts where Aymerich served of the allegations against him.

The Diocese of Western New York cooperates fully with any investigation into allegations of abuse by civil authorities. Anyone wishing to report relevant information about this situation can call Bishop Rowe's office in Tonawanda at 716-881-0660.

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