



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

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**STATEMENT**

**DATE:**                   **May 25, 2019**

**RE:**                       **Deacon Richard W. LaRossa**

**FROM:**                 **Sean P. Dolan, Director of Communications**

It is with sadness that we inform you that an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor has been made against Deacon Richard W. LaRossa, a deacon of the Diocese of Rockville Centre assigned to the Church of Saint Raymond of Penyafort in East Rockaway, New York. The alleged abuse is reported to have occurred approximately 26 years ago, but was only recently reported to the Office for the Protection of Children and Young People of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People establishes specific guidelines when an allegation is made against a clergy member. An investigation is begun when an accusation is made. In accordance with the processes and procedures outlined in the Diocesan Child Protection Policy, the matter has been reported to the civil authorities. Deacon LaRossa has been removed from active ministry and is prohibited from presenting himself as a deacon while the required processes and procedures are undertaken.

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People of the Diocese of Rockville Centre is committed to assisting those who have been victims of abuse by Clergy, Religious, Lay Employees and Volunteers. To report an incident of abuse, regardless of when it occurred, please contact local law enforcement and the Office for the Protection of Children and Young People Hotline Number: 516-594-9063. Your call to that Office will be returned by a licensed mental health counselor. All calls to that Office remain confidential except to the extent the diocese is obligated to report allegations to law enforcement.

We ask for your prayers during these days, which are difficult for all of those involved.