



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Bishop Robert E. Guglielmo cooperating fully after an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor**

CHARLESTON, SC - A lawsuit has been filed in State Court in Nassau County, New York, earlier today in which an allegation was made that Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo, Bishop of Charleston, sexually abused a minor in 1978 or 1979. At the time, he was serving as a priest at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church in Amityville, New York, in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

The plaintiff's abuse allegation was not determined to be credible when it was made and information regarding the accusation was provided to law enforcement. The Vatican has been informed of the allegation and Bishop Guglielmo has been cooperating fully with a thorough ongoing investigation initiated at the request of the Vatican.

Bishop Guglielmo adamantly denies the plaintiff's allegation of abuse and looks forward to proving his innocence of this baseless accusation. "I offer my prayers daily for those whose lives have been hurt or devastated by the actions of a member of the clergy or by any other persons, especially all abused children and other vulnerable persons," said Bishop Guglielmo. "It is particularly tragic when the abuse is at the hands of a priest in whom their spiritual care and well-being has been entrusted."

According to Monsignors Richard D. Harris and D. Anthony Droze, vicars general of the Diocese of Charleston, "Bishop Guglielmo has been a trusted leader of our diocese for more than 10 years. We have the utmost faith in his truthfulness and in his innocence."

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