



PRESS RELEASE

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Father Javier Heredia cleared of criminal charges of sexual misconduct and will return to active ministry

(CHARLESTON, SC) – Father Javier Heredia will return to active ministry after being cleared of charges of sexual misconduct with a minor. This decision was made after civil authorities dropped all criminal charges against Father Heredia and the Diocese of Charleston’s Sexual Abuse Advisory Board concluded that the allegation made against him was not credible.

In July 2018, Father Heredia was arrested following an accusation of inappropriate contact outside the clothing of a minor female while in a public wave pool. Although Father Heredia adamantly denied the accusation, he was removed from active ministry pending the outcome of the case. The prosecutor in the criminal case dropped all charges against him in February 2020. Upon the conclusion of the criminal proceedings, the Sexual Abuse Advisory Board considered information obtained from the criminal investigation, as well as the results of a second investigation by outside private investigators, and determined the accusation to be unfounded. The voting members of this Board are lay people and one priest.

Father Heredia is awaiting his new assignment.

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