



Office of the General Counsel

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops
From: William J. Quinn, Solicitor *WJQ*
Date: April 12, 2023
Subject: **SECURITY ALERT – INDIVIDUAL POSING AS A PRIEST**

Your Eminence / Your Excellency,

The Conference has been informed by the Diocese of Sacramento that an individual posing as a priest has successfully gained access to parish offices in multiple jurisdictions, including Ontario, Oregon, and California. More information about the individual, including pictures, can be found in the attached memorandum from Bishop Soto (on the following page).

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Glen Faulkner, the Security Coordinator for the Diocese of Sacramento, at gfaulkner@scd.org or 916-733-0125.



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Memo

To: Pastors, Parochial Administrators, Parish Stewards
From: Bishop Jaime Soto 
Date: March 29, 2023
Re: Subject posing as a priest

Earlier this month the Sacramento Diocese received a message from the Diocese of Santa Rosa alerting us to an individual who was representing himself as a priest to get into parish offices and rectories. This individual was able to obtain unescorted access into a parish office before the office was open and later into another parish's rectory (again unescorted) by telling a priest and a lay employee that he was a visiting priest. He is seen on security video rifling through cabinets and drawers while he is inside a Santa Rosa parish office. We have learned he is likely responsible for stealing \$1,770.00 from a parish in Oregon.

About one week later, he was recorded on a Delta rectory's doorbell camera in our diocese, as he rang the bell. That same day, the man travelled to downtown Sacramento where he was allowed into a parish office after telling the receptionist he was a priest with an appointment to meet the parish priest in the rectory. He was able to convince office staff to give him the address for the parish's off-site rectory before leaving.



Witnesses who have encountered this man have described him as being very convincing. Although he has not worn a cleric's collar, he dresses professionally and is described as having a formal bearing. He is in his late 40's, about 6'4" tall with a thin, athletic build. He is balding with a grey and black beard and mustache and has a strong accent. His actions have been reported to law enforcement authorities in Ontario, Oregon, Santa Rosa, and Sacramento.



Your safety and that of your staff and parishioners is always of greatest importance. Please advise staff they should never allow anyone who is not recognized as an authorized person to have unescorted access to a private part of any parish building. Should the pictured individual be encountered at your parish, notify your local law enforcement agency immediately and call me at (916) 747-6146. If it is possible to safely observe this individual, try to determine how he arrived at your parish. Please preserve any video images you might have of this individual or his vehicle.

Glen Faulkner, our parish security coordinator can be contacted if you have any questions (gfaulkner@scd.org 916-733-0125).