



By the Grace of God and the Authority of the Apostolic See
Bishop of Bridgeport

DECREE

+ In the name of Our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Having heard the concerns of some members of Saint Charles Parish regarding the behavior of Father Francisco Gomez-Franco that, although neither illegal nor immoral in nature, involved serious boundary violations with minors and violated the diocesan code of conduct, I asked Father Gomez to step away from active ministry and take up residency at an appropriate healthcare facility in order to address these issues. He admitted himself to Saint John Vianney Center in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, on Thursday, July 19, 2018.

The violations to the code of conduct consisted of the following: texting of minors over a significant period of time without parental knowledge or consent, offering gifts to minors without prior parental consent and some physical interaction that, while not sexual in nature, made both the minors and adults present uncomfortable.

On Friday, August 17, 2018, the team of qualified professionals caring for Father Gomez recommended that he continue his treatment and assessment at the Southdown Institute in Canada. I agreed with that recommendation knowing that such treatment would be necessary for Father Gomez's well-being and for any possible future ministry in the Diocese, and thus I asked Father Gomez to go to Southdown directly from Saint John Vianney Center.

Unfortunately, Father Gomez informed me that he would not admit himself to Southdown and, furthermore, informed me that, after discernment and consultation, he has decided to leave priestly ministry permanently. Therefore, because Father Gomez has not complied with the recommendation of the qualified professionals at Saint John Vianney Center, and has effectively asked to be dismissed from the priesthood, with this Decree, I, Frank J. Caggiano, the fifth Bishop of Bridgeport, hereby declare that Father Gomez is henceforth impeded from the exercise of the Sacred Order of Priesthood.

In light of this, Father Gomez has been suspended *a divinis* and does not enjoy priestly faculties. He is to refrain completely from all priestly ministerial activity related in any manner to the exercise of Holy Orders. Consequently, his positions as Pastor of Saint Charles Parish in Bridgeport, Dean of "Queen of Peace" Deanery, Episcopal Master of Ceremonies, and as a Member of the College of Consultors have ceased.

Given at Bridgeport this 24th day of August in the year of Our Lord 2018.



Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport



Reverend Robert Kinnally
Chancellor