

CORRECTION:
Fr. Vijay Bhaskar Godugunuru

On April 15, 2010, Jeff Anderson and Mike Finnegan held a press conference regarding the reassignment of Father Vijay to a parish in Italy where he had contact with children. It has come to our attention that some of the statements we made during that press conference may have been overstatements of Fr. Vijay's criminal proceedings.

1. In describing the resolution of the criminal charges against Father Vijay for third degree assault against our former client, a minor, we both properly stated that Father Vijay pled no contest to the charge and alternatively referred to that resolution as a "conviction." As shown in the plea agreement and court order posted on our website continuously since the press conference, the court withheld adjudication of Father Vijay's guilt. Although this resolution could be properly described as a conviction in some circumstances, it may also be interpreted as an overstatement of the criminal matter.

2. At the press conference, we stated that Fr. Vijay "admitted" that he "inserted his fingers inside and upon the vagina" of a 15 year old girl. Father Vijay stated to a police officer at the time (Lt. Chris Wells Affidavit) that his hand touched between the minor's legs and he described the touch as that of skin and hair and that the minor was "wet" between her legs. Our characterization may have created some uncertainty about the extent of Father Vijay's admission and we want to clarify that characterization and the basis upon which it was made.

3. During the press conference we referred to restrictions that were placed on Father Vijay by his criminal probation, specifically that he not have supervisory contact with children. We may not have made it sufficiently clear that the restriction imposed by the criminal probation only lasted for one year.

Overall, we want to emphasize that neither of us intended to mislead anyone by our remarks during the press conference. We do believe that anyone that watched the entire press conference and reviewed the materials we released would have gotten the wrong impression. Finally, we stand by our opinion that Fr. Vijay should not be around children and applaud our client for having the courage to stand up to him in criminal and civil court.

Jeff Anderson

Mike Finnegan