

Statement from Dr. Ivan Rovira, Ph.D.  
March 8, 2005

In the last few days, there have been questions about me working in Matamoros. First, I think it is most unfortunate that someone felt the need to bother my 84-year-old mother late at night regarding these questions. I ask that she not be contacted in the future. Second, I want to come forward and explain my current status.

Two and half years ago, the bishop informed me that there were two allegations of sexual misconduct against me in reference to a situation that happened 24 years ago. I do not want to go into any specifics about the allegation. However, I was removed from active ministry in the Diocese of Brownsville and the procedures outlined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in their *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* were immediately applied. The process was completed.

Because of my mother's age and her poor health, I wanted to be in close proximity to her. I accepted an academic position in Matamoros that allowed me to support her and myself. This position was based on my academic background and not as a priest. I did, however, respond to a need for sacraments and celebrated Mass in a private chapel and on a few occasions when there was an emergency at a local church. Wrapped up in the emotion of the arrival of a new bishop I concelebrated at his installation in Matamoros. Often we do things that may offend people, and for that I apologize.

I realize that there are unanswered questions regarding my departure from the Diocese in 2002, but at this time I prefer not to go into any details. I will not be granting any interviews. I ask you to pray for my mother, for those involved and for me.