



# NEWS RELEASE

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

## **Bishop William Weigand Releases Statement on Arrest of Former Sacramento Priest Gerardo Beltran**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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*SACRAMENTO – Bishop William K. Weigand, head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento, issued the following statement this evening following the announcement by Sacramento County District Attorney Jan Scully that Gerardo Beltran, a fugitive former Sacramento priest, had been arrested and is awaiting extradition in Mexico City:*

“We have just learned from Sacramento District Attorney Jan Scully that Gerardo Beltran, a fugitive former priest from the Diocese of Sacramento, has been arrested and is being held in Mexico City awaiting extradition to California.

“This is welcome news. Beltran’s victims will finally have their day in court and finally have the chance to see justice done.

“We want to express our thanks to DA Scully and the FBI for continuing to pursue this case and also thank civil authorities in Mexico for stepping forward and apprehending Fr. Beltran.

“Since law enforcement first alerted the diocese to the accusations against Fr. Beltran, the diocese has been cooperating in efforts to bring him to justice. These efforts have included holding public meetings at parishes where Beltran served, encouraging parishioners to come forward with additional information about Beltran or possible Beltran victims, and providing law enforcement officials with whatever information it could to aid investigators.

“On numerous occasions the diocese has alerted Church officials in Mexico that Fr. Beltran was a wanted fugitive in California and that his faculties to say Mass have been revoked.

“We will continue to work with civil and Church authorities here and in Mexico to secure the capture and extradition of two other former Sacramento priests, Jose Luis Urbina and Francisco Javier Garcia, so that their victims will have also have a chance at justice.”

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