



FINANCE

DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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Memo

To: Pastors, Parochial Administrators, School Administrators
From: Glen Faulkner – Parish Security Coordinator
Date: June 15, 2026
Re: A new scam phone call attempt

A Sacramento area parish reported receiving a telephone scam attempt last week.

This call is a variation of another scam attempt that targeted parishes two years ago.

In this incident, the parish received more than one international call from a Mexico number. The caller claimed to be a priest and said he was friends with the Sacramento parish priest, although the caller could not provide the name of the local priest. The caller asked the parish office staff for the local priest's cell number then became angry and used profane language when his request for the number was denied.

This looks like the latest version of a scam that targeted some Sacramento Diocese parishes in June of 2024. In those calls, scammers claimed to be with Diocese's human resources department or with Fed Ex International. These callers would try to gain the confidence of the parish employees to acquire contact information for the parish priest. The callers eventually asked for credit card information to send packages that were "urgently" needed.

While the details of these attempts differ slightly, they all involve scams where callers work to gain the confidences of the victim parish so they can get a priest's personal information. These callers will then try to get a parish's credit card information. The parish priest's personal information can, by itself, be valuable to a scammer since it can be used to perpetrate frauds against parishioners by making their calls appear to originate from the parish priest.

Please scrutinize any calls before providing personal or credit card information, especially if the caller is claiming this information is needed immediately to meet a deadline. These calls may originate from international or out-of-state numbers but can also be spoofed to appear as if they are coming from a trusted party. If you are not certain of a caller's identity, ask for the caller's name and verify their identity by calling the caller's organization using a published phone line or through a second method of communication like email.