

ARCHDIOCESE OF AGAÑA

CHANCERY OFFICE

196 Cuesta San Ramon Ste. B • Hagåtña, Guam 96910-4334 • Tel: (671) 472-6116, (671) 562-0000 • Fax: (671) 477-3519

From: Rev. Fr. Ronald S. Richards, J.C.L., Chancellor

To: Pastors, Parochial Administrators, Principals, Religious Leaders and Directors

Date: 23 April 2019

Re: Archbishop Michael J. Byrnes as the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Agaña, Guam.

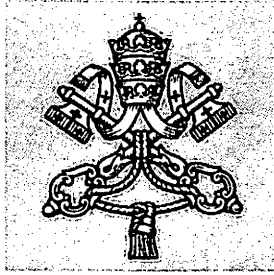
Enclosures: 04 April 2019 – Bolletino, Holy See Press Office
04 April 2019 – News Release from the Archdiocese of Agaña
05 April 2019 – Archbishop Byrnes' Statement
06 April 2019 – Succession of the archbishop of Agaña

Christ is Risen!

As a result of the press release from the Holy See Press Office dated 06 April 2019 and in accordance with canon 409 §1 & §2, please take note and make the necessary changes in all references to Archbishop Michael J. Byrnes, S.T.D., that he is no longer the Coadjutor Archbishop of Agaña, but the Metropolitan Archbishop of Agaña.

I ask for your continued prayers and support for our archbishop and our archdiocese as we move forward in faith.

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIÈGE
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLIS

BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 0286

Giovedì 04.04.2019

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Sommario:

- ◆ **Le Udienze**
- ◆ **Rinunce e nomine**
- ◆ **Comunicato della Congregazione per la Dottrina della Fede**

◆ **Le Udienze**

Il Santo Padre Francesco ha ricevuto questa mattina in Udienza:

- S.E. Mons. Silvio José Báez Ortega, O.C.D., Vescovo tit. di Zica, Ausiliare di Managua (Nicaragua);
- Em.mo Card. Seán Patrick O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Arcivescovo di Boston (Stati Uniti d'America);
- Em.mo Card. Giuseppe Petrocchi, Arcivescovo di L'Aquila (Italia);
- S.E. Mons. Renzo Fratini, Arcivescovo tit. di Botriana, Nunzio Apostolico in Spagna e nel Principato di Andorra.

Il Papa riceve oggi in Udienza:

- Frère Alois, Priore di Taizé;
- Delegazione di giornalisti Cattolici ed Evangelici dalla Repubblica Federale di Germania.

[00579-IT.01]

◆ Rinunce e nomine**Nomina dell'Arcivescovo Metropolita di Washington (U.S.A.)**

Il Santo Padre Francesco ha nominato Arcivescovo Metropolita di Washington (U.S.A.) S.E. Mons. Wilton D. Gregory, finora Arcivescovo Metropolita di Atlanta (U.S.A.).

S.E. Mons. Wilton D. Gregory

S.E. Mons. Wilton D. Gregory è nato il 7 dicembre 1947 a Chicago (Illinois) nell'omonima arcidiocesi. Dopo aver frequentato le scuole elementari a Chicago, è entrato nel *Quigley Preparatory Seminary*. Ha svolto gli studi filosofici al *Niles College* e quelli teologici al *Saint Mary of the Lake Seminary* a Mundelein (Illinois). Successivamente ha conseguito il Dottorato in Liturgia presso il Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo a Roma (1980).

È stato ordinato sacerdote il 9 maggio 1973 per l'arcidiocesi di Chicago.

Dopo l'ordinazione sacerdotale, ha svolto i seguenti incarichi: Vicario Parrocchiale dell'*Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish* a Glenview; Studente a Roma (1976-1979); Professore di Liturgia al *Saint Mary of the Lake Seminary* a Mundelain, Membro dell'Ufficio arcidiocesano per la Liturgia e Maestro delle Cerimonie dei Cardinali Cody e Bernardin (1980-1983).

È stato nominato Vescovo titolare di Oliva ed Ausiliare di Chicago il 18 ottobre 1983, ed è stato consacrato il 13 dicembre successivo.

È stato trasferito alla Sede di Belleville (Illinois) il 29 dicembre 1993 e ha preso possesso il 10 febbraio 1994.

È stato nominato Arcivescovo Metropolita di Atlanta (Georgia) il 9 dicembre 2004, e si è insediato il 17 gennaio 2005.

In seno alla Conferenza Episcopale Statunitense, è stato Presidente (2001-2004), Vice-Presidente (1998-2001), Membro dei Comitati Esecutivo ed Amministrativo, del *Committee on Doctrine*, del *Committee on International Policy*, Chair del *Committee on Personnel*, del *Committee on the Third Millennium/Jubilee Year 2000* (1998-2001) e del *Committee on Liturgy* (1991-1993). Attualmente, è *Chair* del *Committee on Divine Worship*.

Oltre all'inglese, parla l'italiano e lo spagnolo.

[00580-IT.01]

◆ Comunicato della Congregazione per la Dottrina della Fede**Testo in lingua inglese**

Traduzione in lingua italiana

Testo in lingua inglese

As was announced on 16 March 2018, the Apostolic Tribunal of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith concluded a First Instance canonical penal trial in the case of the Most Reverend Anthony Sablan Apuron, O.F.M.Cap. (Agaña, Guam). As was noted at the time, an appeal was possible and was in fact lodged. That appeal has been concluded. On 7 February 2019, the Tribunal of Second Instance upheld the sentence of First Instance finding the Archbishop guilty of delicts against the Sixth Commandment with minors. The penalties imposed are as follows: the privation of office; the perpetual prohibition from dwelling, even temporarily, in the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Agaña; and the perpetual prohibition from using the insignia attached to the rank of Bishop. This decision represents the definitive conclusion in this case. No further appeals are possible.

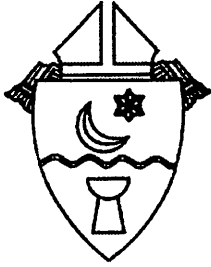
[00582-EN.01] [Original text: English]

Traduzione in lingua italiana

Come già annunciato lo scorso 16 marzo 2018, il Tribunale Apostolico della Congregazione per la Dottrina della Fede ha concluso in Prima Istanza il processo penale giudiziale a carico del S.E. Mons. Anthony Sablan Apuron, O.F.M. Cap. (Agaña, Guam). Come è stato rilevato allora, la sentenza era soggetta ad eventuale appello, che infatti è stato interposto. Il Tribunale di Seconda Istanza in data 7 febbraio 2019 ha confermato la sentenza di Prima Istanza, dichiarando l'imputato colpevole di delitti contro il Sesto Comandamento con minori. Le pene imposte sono le seguenti: la privazione dell'ufficio; il divieto perpetuo di dimorare anche temporaneamente nell'Arcidiocesi di Agaña; il divieto perpetuo di usare le insegne proprie dell'ufficio di Vescovo. Questa decisione rappresenta la conclusione definitiva del caso. Non è possibile ulteriore appello.

[00582-IT.01] [Testo originale: Inglese]

[B0286-XX.01]



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April 4, 2019

News Release

Rome upholds guilty finding against now Bishop Apuron

Rome has rendered its final decision on the matter of now Bishop Anthony S. Apuron, issuing a press statement tonight upholding the initial ruling of guilty announced last March.

We welcome this closure with great relief. We have needed it badly. It has been a long and painful period for our Church and our island community as a whole.

Our Church on Guam can now continue with certainty, our collective journey toward healing and reconciliation. Most importantly, the victims, survivors and their families who have suffered greatly can have some measure of solace that justice has been rendered in the Church's Tribunal process.

The official news release issued by the Press Office of the Holy See states the following:

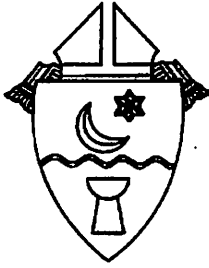
“As was announced on 16 March 2018, the Apostolic Tribunal of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith concluded a First Instance canonical penal trial in the case of the Most Reverend Anthony Sablan Apuron, O.F.M.Cap. (Agaña, Guam).

As was noted at the time, an appeal was possible and was in fact lodged. That appeal has been concluded. On 7 February 2019, the Tribunal of Second Instance upheld the sentence of First Instance finding the Archbishop guilty of delicts against the Sixth Commandment with minors. The penalties imposed are as follows: the privation of office; the perpetual prohibition from dwelling, even temporarily, in the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Agaña; and the perpetual prohibition from using the insignia attached to the rank of Bishop. This decision represents the definitive conclusion in this case. No further appeals are possible.”

A copy accompanies this message. We will convene a news conference tomorrow, April 5, at a time to be announced. I will comment further, then.

Sincerely,

+Michael Byrnes
Archbishop of Agaña



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April 5, 2019

Archbishop Byrnes message on Rome's final guilty verdict against Bishop Apuron

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rome has provided finality for the Catholic Church on Guam on the matter of now Bishop Anthony S. Apuron.

Regarding the canonical trial of Bishop Apuron, the Holy See's Press Office last night announced that Rome has rejected Bishop Apuron's appeal last year and upheld its initial verdict of guilty announced on March of 2018

The news release issued April 4, 2019 by the Apostolic Tribunal of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith states:

"As was announced on 16 March 2018, the Apostolic Tribunal of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith concluded a First Instance canonical penal trial in the case of the Most Reverend Anthony Sablan Apuron, O.F.M.Cap. (Agaña, Guam).

As was noted at the time, an appeal was possible and was in fact lodged. That appeal has been concluded. On 7 February 2019, the Tribunal of Second Instance upheld the sentence of First Instance finding the Archbishop guilty of delicts against the Sixth Commandment with minors.

The penalties imposed are as follows: the privation of office; the perpetual prohibition from dwelling, even temporarily, in the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Agaña; and the perpetual prohibition from using the insignia attached to the rank of Bishop. This decision represents the definitive conclusion in this case. No further appeals are possible."

As stated in the Vatican's initial announcement of findings on March 16, 2018, one of the penalties imposed upon Bishop Apuron is the "privation of office". This means he no longer holds the title of Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Agaña and correspondingly, no longer has a title of archbishop. Neither can he use the insignia of a bishop, including ring and mitre.

The Church does not rejoice when members plummet from grace and are found guilty of grave wrong – in this case, the grievous sin of child abuse. It is a deep and sorrowful shame.

What our Church can and must do in all cases of clergy abuse, is to forthrightly acknowledge the sin, and mete out punishment and penance to the sinner for the sake of his own salvation. As well, we do everything in our power to ensure that the horrible harm inflicted to the innocent, is never repeated.

Once more, on behalf of the entire Archdiocese of Agaña, I extend our deepest apologies to the local men and their families who suffered irreparable harm by Tony Apuron in the past. To Mr. Roy Quintanilla, Mr. Walter Denton, Mr. Roland Paul Sondia, and the late Joseph "Sonny" Quinata, represented by his mom Doris Concepcion, I am truly sorry for the betrayal and severe anguish that you suffered and continue to suffer.

We extend our prayers too, to the following: Mark M. Apuron, who also came forward to say he was sexually abused by his uncle; a former Father Duenas student and seminarian identified by the initials D.M. who claims abuse by Tony Apuron as well; and C.C.C. who also claimed he was abused by Father Apuron. We will continue to keep all of you in our prayers.

I will pray for my brother, Anthony too, as I do for his victims. With humility, as before, I ask for the Faithful to also assist Bishop Apuron in prayer and penance, that he may find grace in repentance and mercy for his soul.

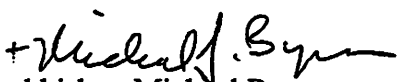
I ask all Catholics to welcome this newest announcement from Rome as another major stepping stone toward healing in our Church. It alone will not bring closure to the tremendous hurt, sins and crimes of the past committed by many members of our Church. However, it is a significant step.

Though I had already been given pastoral and administrative authority over the archdiocese by Pope Francis during my appointment on Oct. 31, 2016, I am now fully and officially the Archbishop of Agaña. I ask for your continued support and I sincerely appreciate your prayers. Please continue building the bridges that will move us forward in our journey to make amends and create a better archdiocese.

Being a better archdiocese means practicing utmost vigilance in safeguarding youngsters in our care. "Protecting God's Children" training in the national VIRTUS program is an important part of our commitment to fight child abuse. I remind every clergyman, employee or volunteer in our archdiocese to ensure you fulfill mandatory training in the VIRTUS program coordinated by our Safe Environment office.

There are many steps we need to take to correct the wrongs of the past. We continue the journey. Our focus shall remain on making penance and reparation in our Church on Guam, attending to justice for the numerous victims of clergy sexual abuse on Guam and continuing our mission to proclaim the love of God to the people of Guam and the Marianas.

Sincerely,


Archbishop Michael Byrnes
Metropolitan Archbishop of Agaña

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BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIÈGE
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLIS

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Resignations and Appointments, 06.04.2019

Appointment of the special envoy to the concluding celebration of the sixth centenary of the death of Saint Vincent Ferrer (Vannes, France, 9 June 2019)

Succession of the archbishop of Agaña, Guam

Appointment of the special envoy to the concluding celebration of the sixth centenary of the death of Saint Vincent Ferrer (Vannes, France, 9 June 2019)

The Holy Father Francis has appointed His Eminence Cardinal Dominique Mamberti, prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, as his special envoy at the concluding celebration of the sixth centenary of the death of Saint Vincent Ferrer, to be held in Vannes, France on Sunday 9 June 2019.

Succession of the archbishop of Agaña, Guam

With the publication of the confirmation of the unappealable judgement of the Court of First Appeal against H.E. Msgr. Anthony Sablan Apuron, O.F.M. Cap., H.E. Msgr. Michael Jude Byrnes will succeed him as archbishop of the metropolitan see of Agaña, Guam.

[Audience with the Members of the "Missionszentrale der Franziskaner", Germany](#)

[Audiences](#)

[Letter of the Holy Father Francis to the people of L'Aquila for the tenth anniversary of the earthquake in Abruzzo](#)

[Declaration of the interim director of the Holy See Press Office, Alessandro Gisotti](#)

[Visit of the Holy Father Francis to the earthquake-affected areas of the diocese of Camerino-San Severino Marche \(16 June 2019\) - Programme](#)