



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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FINANCE

Memo

To: Pastors, Parochial Administrators, Parish Stewards, School Administrators
From: Glen Faulkner – Parish Security Coordinator
Date: July 3, 2023
Re: More scam package delivery phone calls

Attempts to scam parishes out of confidential information and money continue to occur. A memo in the April 24, 2023, Sacramento Diocese weekly bulletin described a version of the scam where Spanish-speaking callers have contacted parish offices claiming to be a priest working for another Diocese who was trying to arrange the delivery of important religious documents to the victim parish.

A variation of this scam occurred again when a parish in the Sacramento Diocese recently received a call from a New York area code. A Spanish-speaking man claiming to be a priest from the Sacramento Diocese said he was trying to arrange yet another package delivery. Again, this caller sought the parish priest's cell phone number. In this case, the parish staff member who took the call became suspicious and the call ended before the scam could proceed.

While the details of these attempts to defraud parishes may change slightly, they continue to occur. Credit card information is of immediate value to criminals, but even other information like personal cell phone numbers can be used to perpetrate other crimes like fraudulent gift card requests that appear to originate from a parish priest.

Any calls from persons seeking phone numbers or other information related to shipments of religious materials should be closely scrutinized. Many of these calls have originated from out of state area codes but remember; scammers can also create fictitious phone numbers that might appear local or familiar on caller ID. Do not be pressured into releasing any information by any caller. If you are not certain of a caller's identity, ask for the caller's name and verify their identity by calling the company on a published phone line or through a second method of communication like email. Before releasing any personal information or credit card numbers, office staff or volunteers should verify that the request is for legitimate business by personally checking with the parish priest.