



# Catholic Diocese of Richmond

Office of Communications

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Deborah Cox  
Director of Communications  
[dcx@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:dcx@richmonddiocese.org)  
(804) 971-7412 Mobile

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## **Diocese of Richmond Responds to Social Media Comments Concerning Father Patrick Kofi Boadu**

Shortly before Christmas, the Diocese of Richmond became aware of comments posted on the Facebook page of Saint Michael the Archangel parish, Glen Allen, concerning Father Patrick Kofi Boadu. The recent comments posted on the Saint Michael Facebook page alleged inappropriate behavior that occurred in his home archdiocese. Likewise, the posts appear to have originated from Ghana.

Father Boadu is a priest in good standing from the Archdiocese of Kumasi in Ghana. He is currently serving in the Diocese of Richmond through an agreement between Bishop Knestout and Archbishop Gabriel J. Anokye of Kumasi. Following his arrival on Nov. 23, 2021, Father Boadu was assigned as parochial vicar of Saint Michael's.

Once notified of the posted comments, the Diocese of Richmond began an immediate inquiry.

Based on the information the diocese has received, and in cooperation with the leadership of the Archdiocese of Kumasi, the diocese learned that Father Boadu is the victim of false information posted on the internet about him. This is currently being investigated by Ghanaian authorities. The diocese has been notified that some, but not all, perpetrators have been arrested. The allegations made against him have been deemed untrue.

As an international priest working in the Diocese of Richmond, Father Boadu underwent an international background screening which included a criminal background check. Consistent with diocesan policy, he also completed a VIRTUS safe-environment training and complied with all screening required by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) to obtain the appropriate visa required for a religious worker in the U.S.

Bishop Barry C. Knestout has received confirmation that Father Boadu remains in good standing and has the full confidence of his archbishop. However, Bishop Knestout has determined, in the best interest of Father Boadu and due to the matter remaining an open investigation by Ghanaian authorities, Father Boadu should return to the archdiocese so the matter can be addressed locally and as needed.

We appreciate the work of Father Boadu during his time in the diocese.

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The Diocese of Richmond covers approximately 33,000 square miles and serves more than 220,000 Catholics.

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