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NEWS RELEASE

One Santa Barbara Church parishioner tests positive; Four new cases at Catholic schools

The Archdiocese of Agaña announces a positive case reported by the pastor of Santa Barbara Catholic Church along with four additional cases at several Catholic schools today, August 26.

Santa Barbara Church pastor, Father Dan Bien and his staff are working with the Archdiocese and the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) on contact tracing as part of their COVID-19 protocols after a parishioner notified them today of testing positive last night.

The parishioner attended 8 a.m. and noon Masses on Sunday, Aug. 21 and 6 p.m. Mass the following Monday. The person is isolating at home and persons who are classified as close contacts are being notified and guided regarding testing and quarantine.

The following schools also informed our COVID-19 Liaison of individuals testing positive: Bishop Baumgartner Memorial -- 2 students; Academy of Our Lady of Guam -- 1 student; Dominican Child Development Center in Ordot -- 1 student

The total number of Catholic school students testing positive for the virus is now 23.

Persons who test positive may not have necessarily contracted the virus at their school or church but elsewhere. All Catholic sites employ COVID protocols such as sanitization, mandatory wearing of masks and social distancing.

DPHSS is working with the Catholic schools on contact tracing and testing of all who may have been exposed to the positive persons. School administrators are following protocols to ensure the safety of their students and adults. Students who have tested positive are isolating at home and those with possible exposure are receiving guidance on testing and quarantine.

Working with DPHSS, Father Duenas Memorial School is providing the Abbott BinaxNOW rapid test to students and families of the affected Catholic schools at its site in Mangilao.

Archbishop Michael Byrnes, Father Dan and school administrators ask prayers for the affected individuals and their families and all who have contracted the virus. Thank you.

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