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News » Article

Calif. pastor charged with assaulting parishioners



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Associated Press
Thu Sep 19, 2013 4:25 PM

NORWALK, Calif. — A Southern California churchman who claimed to have “healing hands” has been charged with sexually assaulting women parishioners.

Fifty-four-year-old Jorge Juan Castro of Norwalk was arrested last week and charged with rape and other sex crimes. He remains jailed Thursday.

Castro was associate pastor of Las Buenas Nuevas in Norwalk but he's been removed.

Authorities contend that since at least 2004 he assaulted parishioners at the church or their homes under the guise of performing faith healing.

A Los Angeles County sheriff's statement says more than 20 women told a church official they'd been assaulted.

Many of the women are Spanish-speaking people in the country illegally.

Sheriff's officials claim that Castro threatened to subject them to public ridicule and to have them deported if they exposed him.

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