

Bandits kill Catholic priest, abduct another in Katsina

Abbas Jimoh (Abuja) & Abubakar Auwal (Sokoto)

A Catholic priest, The Rev Fr Alphonsus Bello, has been reported killed, while another, The Rev Fr Joe Keke, was kidnapped by gunmen suspected to be bandits at St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church in Malumfashi, Katsina State.

The national social communications director, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, Padre Mike Nsikak Umoh, who disclosed this yesterday in Abuja, said the gunmen, on Thursday night, stormed the Catholic parish and started shooting

into the air, leaving some people injured in the process.

According to him, the suspected bandits dumped the lifeless body of Fr Alphonsus Bello in the farmland behind the Catechetical Training School, Malumfashi, while the whereabouts of Fr Keke is still unknown.

The training school is part of Sokoto Diocese under Bishop Matthew Kukah.

Umoh said the director of communications for Sokoto Diocese, The Rev Fr Chris Omotosho, in a note to the national communications office of the Catholic Secretariat in Abuja, confirmed the incident.