



*Society  
of the  
Catholic  
Apostolate*

**Pallottines**

*Immaculate  
Conception  
Province*

*Office  
of the  
Provincial*

**Sunday, December 28, 2008**

Dear St. Leo Parishioners,

May the peace of our Lord and the blessings of this Advent season be with all of you!

It has been several months since I last wrote to you about Michael Salerno. As promised, I write today to share with you the outcomes of the investigation that ensued following the allegations that was made against Michael Salerno that he sexually abused a minor in the 1970s while he was a Pallottine Brother serving at All Saints Church in Brooklyn, New York.

I regret that the investigation took so long to complete, since I know it has been a painful process for many, especially those in the St. Leo's community. I am grateful that it has now concluded so that all persons affected, including the St. Leo's community, may take the necessary next steps to healing and reconciliation.

The final report of the investigation conducted by the Diocese of Brooklyn confirms that Michael Salerno did sexually abuse a boy who was approximately 13-years old at the time of the initial abuse. Michael Salerno admitted to the investigators that he sexually abused the person in question a number of times over a period of years in the mid- to late 1970's.

No other individuals have come forward claiming they were sexually abused as children and no child sexual abuse allegations have been made against Michael Salerno during his time at St. Leo's. The Pallottines are committed to protecting children and helping to heal victims of abuse. We urge anyone who has any knowledge of any child sexual abuse to come forward, and to report it immediately to civil authorities. If clergy or other Church personnel are suspected of committing the abuse, we ask that you call area code 973-762-2926. You may also call the Archdiocese of Baltimore's Office of Child and Youth Protection Hotline at 1-866-417-7469.

As a result of the findings of the investigation, Michael Salerno's faculties to function as a priest, which were removed at the time of the allegation, will not be restored and are permanently revoked. He will never again function as a Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of Baltimore or any other diocese.

I regret the pain this news causes you and that we must share it with you during this otherwise joyful time in our Church year. Please count on the supportive prayers of the Pallottines and St. Leo's and I urge you to contact Fr. Sal for any spiritual support you may need in the days ahead.



St. Vincent Pallotti

*P.O. Box 979  
So. Orange,  
NJ 07079*

*Residence:  
204 Raymond Ave. (973) 762-2926  
So. Orange, Fax:  
NJ 07079 (973) 762-2939*



This has also been a difficult process for both the victim and for Michael Salerno. I ask you to pray for both individuals, who are each struggling spiritually and emotionally. Counseling and treatment have been made available to both men, and Michael Salerno will remain under the care and supervision of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate.

Finally, I ask for your continued support of Fr. Sal and for the entire staff at St. Leo's during this very challenging time. This is a very special parish and has been throughout its 127-year history. I pray that you will draw strength from your mutual faith in God and love for each other and St. Leo's.

May the joy of this Christmas season fill our hearts once again and may it bring healing and comfort to those who suffer in our midst.

Sincerely in St. Vincent Pallotti,

*V. Rev. Peter T. Sticco, S.A.C.*  
Very Rev. Peter T. Sticco, S.A.C.  
Provincial