

Office Location: 510 Ocean Avenue  
Mailing Address: PO Box 11559  
Portland ME 04104-7559  
Phone: 207-321-7818  
Fax: 207-321-7860  
E-mail: ritamae.bissonnette@portlanddiocese.org

Office of the Chancellor

---

February 18, 2011

Mrs Marie Tupper  
45 Campbell St  
Boothbay Harbor ME 04538-2135

Dear Marie:

There has been a final resolution in the case against Father Lee and I am writing to inform you of the results.

A canonical tribunal of first instance, comprised of canon lawyers from outside the diocese, determined that the reports of abuse by Father Lee did not rise to the level of a canonical crime and were not proven. However, the court described Father Lee's actions as imprudent. This decision was appealed and a court of second instance again, canonical judges from outside the Portland Diocese, upheld the decision of the first court. The matter is now definitely resolved; there are no possibilities of further appeals.

Having heard all the evidence, Bishop Malone has decided to continue to restrict Father Lee from any regular public ministry. Any exceptions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. This is not meant to be punitive, since the allegations of abuse were deemed not proven, but rather prudential considering his actions and for the good of the Church.

This has been a long and arduous process and I understand this decision may not be all you hoped for, Marie. I pray you find some consolation in the bishop's resolution.

This decision will be made public over the weekend. Please be assured of Bishop Malone's and my continued prayers for you.

Sincerely in the Lord,

(Sr.) Rita-Mae Bissonnette, RSR  
Chancellor