

*(Statement regarding lawsuit against Fr. Thomas Lee and the Diocese of Portland,
1/13/03)*

We can only begin to understand the pain and anguish of any victim of sexual abuse and their family. From the time this parent came forward to the Diocese in 2002, we began an investigation which was difficult to achieve a certain conclusion since it hinged on 20 year old memories from someone who was only between 3 and 5 years old at the time.

The practice of the Diocese is to offer to pay for counseling for the victim and any affected family member. In this case, that offer was made but the family declined.

Certainly we would prefer to resolve this matter without litigation, and prior to the lawsuit we attempted to negotiate with the plaintiff. But obviously that was not satisfactory to her.

(Background: Rev. Thomas Lee resigned as Pastor of St. Philip in Lyman in March 6/2004. Bishop Richard Malone, who is named in this lawsuit was installed as Bishop of Portland on March 31st of 2004)

-Sue Bernard, Communications Dir.
Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland