

December 19, 1998

**Background Information about Philip Magaldi
Unrelated to the Present Allegations**

1. The Claus von Bulow Trial:

Father Magaldi was involved in a peripheral way in the notorious first trial of Claus von Bulow. The attached clipping sums up the charges against him and the fact that he was eventually cleared of misconduct. He had been charged with perjury and obstruction of justice.

2. Embezzlement Charges and Conviction

The newspaper clippings give a brief view of what happened. In 1988 Father Magaldi was accused of having embezzled a large sum of money (at least \$200,000) from his parish. He denied the charges and the matter sat for about two years. Then the State of Rhode Island brought charges against him. He was tried, eventually pled guilty and was sentenced to prison. He served an eight-month term.

At the time of his trial, he was serving as a pastor in the Diocese of Fort Worth upon the recommendation of the bishop of Providence. After being paroled, he returned to Fort Worth and was given an assignment as an associate pastor, with the understanding that he would never be allowed to be a pastor or in charge of money in the future. He was incardinated in the Diocese of Fort Worth in 1994, since it was clear that he could never serve again in Rhode Island because of the conviction.

Editorial Note (Bishop Delaney): It cannot be over-stressed how serious the situation was. Had he not pled guilty he was in imminent danger of being found guilty by a jury and sentenced to a much longer term. He maintained and continues to do that he was in fact not guilty, but that by pleading guilty he was saving the bishop of Providence from a lot of difficulties—in other words, he was really a martyr. During this whole period he remained, at least on the surface, quite serene and unaffected by the events, always insisting on his innocence, in spite of the overwhelming evidence against him.

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