

Office of Communications

MARCH 13, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS REGARDING WRONGFUL DEATH SUIT

ST. LOUIS — The Archdiocese of St. Louis has been informed that a wrongful death suit has been filed today in St. Louis Circuit Court, naming both Romano Ferraro, a former priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, and the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Today's filing was the first that the archdiocese had learned of the apparent suicide last July of the plaintiff, "John Doe GS," who had originally filed suit against Ferraro and the archdiocese in May 2005.

On learning of this death, Monsignor Richard F. Stika, the archdiocese's Episcopal Vicar for Child and Youth Protection, said, "Reading the reported statement of the widow of John Doe GS is the first time we have heard that he was desperate for help. If this could have been communicated to the archdiocese either from him directly, his family, or from his attorneys, we would have done what we could have to help him immediately."

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has previously settled through mediation two other lawsuits naming Ferraro, both of which were filed in 2004.

Romano Ferraro was in residence at St. Joan of Arc Parish in St. Louis from 1981 to 1983, while he served as a chaplain at Jewish Hospital. He was not assigned to parish ministry during this time. The Archdiocese of St. Louis urges any person who has been harmed by Ferraro to contact the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection, at (314) 633-2279, or the Circuit Attorney for the City of St. Louis.

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