

## Statement Regarding Fr. Joseph Perri, SJ

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*Public Statement from Very Rev. Patrick J. Lee, S.J., Provincial,  
The Society of Jesus, Oregon Province Thursday, August 21, 2008*

Several weeks ago, the Oregon Province received a credible allegation of sexual abuse of an adult, made against the deceased Jesuit priest, Joseph Perri. The woman asserts that, in the early 1970's, Perri, who was then working in the Jesuit province offices, pursued her and sexually assaulted her, leading to a great deal of suffering. At her request, we are now making this statement, as a means of support and encouragement of all victims of sexual abuse. Also we encourage others who may have been abused by Perri to come forward.

We are profoundly sorry for the pain caused to this woman and to her family by the actions of this Jesuit, who did not live fully the vows he had professed. Further, I apologize to others who will suffer from these revelations, especially those who knew and trusted Fr. Perri, including the members of his own family. The failure of any of our brothers to live respectfully and chastely harms us all, and for that I am sincerely sorry.

On behalf of all Jesuits, I apologize for Joseph Perri's failure and pledge that we will continue to labor to heal past abuses, even while we labor to build a more just future. In recent years, we have redoubled our efforts to create safe environments for ministry, through the screening of applicants and the training of all Jesuits in the recognition and reporting of abuse. Yet, even as we seek to build a safe future, we also have sought to heal past hurts with humility and true repentance.

The Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus is grateful for the courage of those who have come forward to help us in this process of healing and growth.