

Press Release
Regarding
Louis Ladenburger
June 4, 2007

On Thursday, May 31, 2007, the Province of St. Barbara first learned from the press of Mr. Louis Ladenburger's arrest for sexual battery. Mr. Ladenburger had been a Franciscan priest. He left the Order and priesthood in March 1996.

Mr. Ladenburger was ordained a Franciscan priest in 1963. He was treated twice in the 1980's for inappropriate professional behavior and relationships. In both cases the treatment facilities recommended his return to ministry after treatment.

In 1993, with heightened concern and new awareness of abuse issues, the Province sent Mr. Ladenburger for further psychological review. As a result of this review, he was told that his ministry would be severely restricted if not totally removed, and he would be under the supervision of the Province's Independent Response Team (IRT) that handles sexual abuse.. He refused this option and asked for a leave of absence to consider whether he wished to remain in the Order and the priesthood. He formally asked the Vatican to release him from his religious vows and the priesthood. This was granted in March 1996.

Any individual who wishes to discuss any issues regarding Mr. Ladenburger while he was a member of the Franciscan Order may contact the Province's Pastoral Outreach Coordinator, Angelica Jochim, at 1-800-770-8013.