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Media Release

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Pastor indicted for theft of Parish funds

Wilmington – Following a 5-month investigation by the Delaware Department of Justice, the New Castle County Grand Jury has indicted Father Cornelius Breslin in connection with disbursements he made from church accounts. The Indictment charges Father Breslin with 2 counts of Theft over \$100,000 and 2 counts of Falsifying Business Records related to checks he wrote to himself from the bank accounts of Wilmington's St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Parishes, where he is Pastor.

"Stealing from church funds is an abuse of trust and a criminal offense which we take very seriously," Attorney General Beau Biden said.

The investigation was initiated following a report of suspicious financial activity that the Attorney General's office received from the Diocese of Wilmington. The investigation revealed that Father Breslin wrote checks to himself for more than \$358,000 from church accounts over the period from July, 2009 through August, 2010, and that he deposited these funds into an account at another bank.

Breslin turned himself in to Capitol Police in Wilmington this morning.

The investigation is ongoing.

The Delaware Department of Justice reminds the public that an indictment is merely an allegation and is not evidence of guilt. Defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a jury trial at which the State bears the burden of proving each charge beyond a reasonable doubt.

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