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PRESS RELEASE

SENTENCED: Robert Ascolese
Last Known Address
89 Holly Street
Port Reading, New Jersey
Age: 47 years

The above named defendant, former pastor of Saint Joseph's Church in Washington Borough up until 2005, was sentenced today by Warren County Judge John H. Pursel, J.S.C. on two consolidated second degree theft charges and one third degree theft charge.

The thefts arose out of a lottery run by the St. Joseph's Church over a five year period in Washington Township, New Jersey. The charges also arose out of a scheme to obtain matching charitable funds from the J&J and Merck and Company matching gift programs.

The defendant was sentenced to serve 3 years in state prison on all charges.

The case was presided over by John H. Pursel, J.S.C. Assistant Prosecutor Craig Barto handled the case on behalf of the State. Melvin Wright, Jr., Esq. from New York City represented the defendant.

The investigation of this matter was conducted by the Major Crimes Unit of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office.


THOMAS S. FERGUSON
Prosecutor

DATE: July 3, 2008