

## July 21, 2009 - St. Praxedes, Virgin Simple Feast

### **Racketeering Charges Entered against Holy Family Monastery U.S. District Judge Allows Case to Proceed against Dimond Brothers**

**From: The Fathers**



**U.S. District Judge John Curtin  
Has Ruled that Case May Proceed against Holy Family Monastery and Dimond Brothers  
For Racketeering under the Racketeering Influence and Corrupt Organizations (RICO)  
Act  
As Well as Fraud, Negligent Misrepresentation, and Unjust Enrichment  
In the Matter Involving 1,400,000 U.S. Dollars**

The *Daily Record* of Rochester, New York, has reported that a U.S. federal lawsuit has been entered against the Dimond brothers and Holy Family Monastery in Fillmore, New York, for fraud by a young man who turned over almost 1,200,000 U.S. dollars in cash and stocks to the monastery. Eric Hoyle joined the Most Holy Family Monastery to become a Benedictine monk under the guidance of Frederick Dimond. Hoyle claims that Dimond, also known as Brother Michael, who operates the monastery with his sibling brother Robert, told him that he would have to turn over all his worldly possessions to the monastery. Hoyle did.

The *Daily Record* reported that after joining the group in September 2005, Hoyle transferred securities valued at 1,200,000 U.S. dollars and gave thousands to the monastery, according to his federal complaint. He also signed an agreement that he would receive \$750,000 if he left. Hoyle did leave on December 31, 2007, and filed a federal lawsuit against the Dimond brothers to recover his donations. The amended civil complaint accuses the Dimond brothers of fraud,

negligent misrepresentation, unjust enrichment, plus racketeering and several additional causes of action.

The *Daily Record* reports that the lawsuit will go forward in federal court, as the defendant Dimond brothers' attempt to dismiss the case was recently denied by U.S. District Judge John Curtin in Buffalo, New York, who also allowed plaintiff Hoyle to add several causes of action to his complaint, including a conspiracy claim under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). The judge upheld the racketeering claim, saying that plaintiff Hoyle alleged specific facts which, if true, would show that the defendants conspired to commit a crime by making false representations and by soliciting donations and postulants for several years. The judge also said that plaintiff Hoyle was entitled to pursue claims for unjust enrichment.