

Father Crandall released from federal prison
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Father Thomas Crandall, former pastor of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Milton, was released from Edgefield Federal Correctional Institution in South Carolina on May 4. Father Crandall has entered a halfway house in Baldwin County, Ala., and will remain under federal jurisdiction during a period of supervised release. Terms of his release include mandatory drug testing along with standard parole conditions.

Father Crandall was convicted to serve 51 months in federal prison in January of 2002 for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute methamphetamine and Ecstasy. He has made partial restitution in the related matter of embezzlement of parish funds, for which no formal charges were brought.

Father Crandall will not function in any ministry of the Pensacola-Tallahassee diocese during the period in which he is on supervised release, according to diocesan sources. If at a later date he requests to return to ministry, it will be considered only after extensive evaluation. Any possible return to ministry would be under the most carefully prescribed circumstances, strictest supervision, and an extended period of rehabilitation and restitution. During his supervised release, he will be responsible for supporting himself in a secular job.