



**For Immediate Release
August 19, 2008**

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MARYKNOLL, N.Y.— Fr. John Sivalon, M.M., and Fr. Roy Bourgeois, M.M., met together at Maryknoll Headquarters in Ossining, N.Y., on Monday, Aug. 18 to discuss Fr. Bourgeois' participation in a religious ceremony held in Lexington, Ky., on Aug. 9. After their meeting, they issued the following joint statement.

An investigation has been carried out as to the true facts of the August 9 event in Lexington, Ky. A report of that investigation will be sent to the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith in Rome. In the meantime, Fr. Bourgeois has received a canonical warning.

Contrary to popular understanding, participants in the ceremony, such as Father Bourgeois, were not automatically excommunicated.

Going forward, Society leadership and Fr. Bourgeois will be more involved in collective discernment over issues of justice, including the role of women in the Church.

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