



FINANCE

DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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Memo

To: Pastors, Parochial Administrators, Parish Stewards
From: Glen Faulkner – Parish Security Coordinator
Date: April 15, 2024
Re: UPDATE – Arrest made in Imposter Priest case

I am pleased to report law enforcement officers in Riverside County have arrested an individual believed to be the man responsible for burglaries and attempted burglaries at Catholic churches across the country.

On April 10, 2024, Malim Rostas (AKA Moyse Lingurar) was arrested by Riverside County Sheriff deputies.

As described in previous Diocese weekly bulletins, Rostas would allegedly represent himself to be a Catholic priest to parish staff in an attempt to gain access to offices and rectories where he would attempt to steal cash or other valuables.

The individual responsible for these acts was able to convince some staff members that he was a priest by researching the targeted parish and, in some cases, the diocese in which that parish was located to develop information about the parish priest's name or the name of officials from the involved diocese.

The Riverside Sheriff's detective handling the case is looking for any information about additional parishes that might have been victimized. I am aware of three parishes in the Sacramento Diocese where the individual now identified as Rostas is believed to have attempted to access facilities.

If your parish may have been visited by Rostas (even if the attempt to get into buildings was not successful) please contact me (gfaulkner@scd.org / (916) 733-0125) or Riverside Sheriff's Investigator McCracken (951-486-6700).

NOTE Rostas's image in the attached Riverside Sheriff's booking photo differs significantly from those captured by parish security cameras and distributed in previous weekly Diocese bulletins. Rostas was apparently wearing a hairpiece and had dyed his mustache and beard at the time of his arrest.



RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
 MORENO VALLEY SHERIFF'S STATION
 INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

**Reporting Deputy:
 Lieutenant Sam Morovich**

FAKE PRIEST IN- CUSTODY



Booking Photo 04/10/2024

MALIN ROSTAS

AGE: 45

DESCRIPTION:
 Romanian male, 6'00", 180 lbs, brown hair, black eyes

AKA: Moyse Lingurar

Case # MV241010139



Law enforcement agencies across the United States have been on the lookout for a serial burglar posing as a priest, "Father Martin." The suspect reportedly gains access to churches by using

LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL VICTIMS

fraud and deception to commit theft. He was last seen driving a black sedan.

On April 10, 2024, about 11:00 a.m., deputies from the Moreno Valley Sheriff's Station located a vehicle in the 10000 block of Pigeon Pass Road, matching the description of the vehicle used during the burglaries. The driver of the vehicle, identified as 45-year-old Malin Rostas, a resident of New York, was taken into custody for an outstanding felony warrant out of Pennsylvania for burglary. Moreno Valley Investigators assumed the investigation and discovered Rostas was "Father Martin" and had just attempted to burglarize a local church.

Rostas was booked at the Robert Presley Detention Center on the outstanding warrant. Additional charges will be filed for the attempted burglary in Moreno Valley. This case is ongoing, and no further details are available at this time.

The Moreno Valley Sheriff's Station believes there may be additional burglary victims. Anyone with information regarding this case or similar cases is encouraged to contact Investigator McCracken at the Moreno Valley Sheriff's Station at (951) 486-6700 or their local law enforcement agency.