

8-5-08 - Former Darien priest delays reporting to prison
By Stephen P. Clark, Staff Writer, Stamford Advocate

In yet another close call, a Catholic priest convicted of stealing \$1 million from his Darien church was granted a fifth delay just two days before he was to report to prison.

On Monday, U.S. District Court Judge Janet Bond Arteron postponed until Sept. 3 the date the Rev. Michael Jude Fay, former pastor of St. John Roman Catholic Church, begins serving his three-year prison sentence.

Fay, who has prostate cancer, was to surrender Wednesday at the Federal Medical Center in Butner, N.C., but made his delay request Monday to give the Bureau of Prisons enough time to administer a new cancer drug to him.

According to a motion filed by Fay's attorney, Lawrence Hopkins, the U.S. attorney's office did not oppose this latest request.

Fay, pastor of St. John for 15 years, was accused of stealing \$1.3 million from his Darien parish from 1999 to 2006, funneling much of it into secret bank accounts. Fay admitted stealing but said the amount was \$400,000 to \$1 million, because he used some of the money to buy gifts for church employees and volunteers.