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Prison for Priest in Child Photo Case

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http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/03/nyregion/03priest.html?_r=1&sq=catholic&st=nyt&adxnnl=1&scp=3&adxnnlx=1209827754-SOZF+R+xZuChp+rYMLGCBA&oref=slogin

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. — A priest was sentenced on Friday to about three and a half years in prison after admitting he collected hundreds of child pornography images off the Internet.

The priest, the Rev. Thomas Saloy, 47, an administrator of the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church in Roosevelt, pleaded guilty in November 2006 to federal charges of having more than 600 illegal images on his computer.

He was arrested as part of a national F.B.I. computer pornography sting. A criminal complaint states that when agents seized computer equipment near Milwaukee in September 2005, they found an e-mail message from Father Saloy, depicting sexually explicit images of boys.

Prosecutors said that Father Saloy acknowledged that he had visited AOL chat rooms and that he had requested and received sexually explicit images of children 15 to 16 years old.

After Father Saloy's arrest, the Diocese of Rockville Centre said he was placed on administrative leave, which means he may not wear clerical garb, including the Roman collar, and may not celebrate Mass in public. Sean Dolan, a church spokesman, said on Friday that Father Saloy's status with the church remained the same. "It's a tragic situation all around, but we do respect the judicial process," he said.

Father Saloy's lawyer did not immediately return a call for comment.

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