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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. DONOVAN: MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHARGES OF BURGLARIZING 12 STATEN ISLAND CHURCHES

******Lonnie Faulk, 42, Faces 5 to 10 Years in Prison at Sentencing******

STATEN ISLAND, NY - Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today announced that Lonnie Faulk, (DOB: 1/15/1966) who is un-domiciled, has pleaded guilty a day after his arraignment on a 42-count indictment alleging a dozen burglaries at houses of worship across the North Shore of Staten Island between June and September 2008.

District Attorney Donovan stated, "Houses of worship in this community offer refuge and charity to those in need, such as the defendant, however he violated the trust of these congregations by violently breaking into their sanctuaries and stealing from poor boxes and pilfering items ranging from rosary beads to bass guitars."

Lonnie Faulk was initially arrested September 27, 2008 at approximately 1:00 AM while in the process of burglarizing First Central Baptist Church, 117 Wright Street. Additional investigation linked the defendant to 11 earlier burglaries. The top charges against the defendant, a total of 16 class D felonies including multiple felony counts of Burglary, Criminal Mischief and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, carried a penalty of up to 7 years in prison for each offense.

The defendant was arraigned Wednesday morning in Richmond County State Supreme Court before Justice Leonard P. Rienzi, who ordered his \$70,000 bail continued. His case was recalled this morning before Justice Rienzi who accepted the defendant's top-count plea to 2 charges of Burglary in the 3rd Degree. For each guilty plea, the defendant will be sentenced to consecutive prison terms of 2 ½ to 5 years at his January 14, 2009 sentencing date.

The case against Lonnie Faulk is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kathleen Naughton of the Supreme Court Bureau under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Paul A. Capofari, Bureau Chief. The defendant is represented by Gregory Clarke, Esq.

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List of Charges Contained in Indictment

- 12 counts - *Burglary in the 3rd Degree*, Class D felony – Punishable by up to 7 years in prison
- 1 count - *Criminal Mischief in the 2nd Degree*, Class D felony - Punishable by up to 7 years in prison
- 2 counts - *Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree*, Class D felony - Punishable by up to 7 years in prison
- 1 count - *Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree*, Class D felony - Punishable by up to 7 years in prison
- 3 counts - *Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree*, Class E felony - Punishable by up to 4 years in prison
- 1 count - *Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree*, Class E felony – Punishable by up to 4 years in prison
- 2 counts - *Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 4th Degree*, Class E felony - Punishable by up to 4 years in prison
- 6 counts - *Criminal Mischief in the 4th Degree*, Class A misdemeanor - Punishable by up to 1 year in jail
- 7 counts - *Petit Larceny*, Class A misdemeanor – Punishable by up to 1 year in jail
- 7 counts - *Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 5th Degree*, Class A misdemeanor - Punishable by up to 1 year in jail

List of 12 Burglary Offenses Allegedly Committed by Defendant Lonnie Faulk, 6/12/08- 9/27/08

June 12, 2008 – Mt. Sinai United Christian Church – 199 Victory Blvd.

The defendant is alleged to have stolen currency, an electric keyboard and assorted canned food.

July 27, 2008 – Immaculate Conception Church – 128 Targee St.

The defendant is alleged to have stolen currency.

August 10, 2008 – First Central Baptist Church – 117 Wright St.

The defendant is alleged to have stolen currency.

August 18, 2008 – Trinity Lutheran Church – 309 St. Paul's Ave.

The defendant allegedly entered and remained unlawfully in the premises with intent to commit a crime; damaging window security bars and a security alarm keypad.

August 26, 2008 – Sacred Heart Church – 981 Castleton Ave.

The defendant is alleged to have stolen currency, crystal rosary beads, saint medals, plastic rosary beads, U.S. postal stamps, assorted jewelry, food vouchers and a portable DVD player.

August 26, 2008 – Christ Church of New Brighton - 76 Franklin Ave.

The defendant is alleged to have stolen assorted power tools.

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August 29, 2008 – The Voice of Our Lord Christian Center – 473 Jersey St.

The defendant is alleged to have stolen currency, audio equipment, a ceiling fan, a CD/cassette player, and assorted food.

September 10, 2008 - The Voice of Our Lord Christian Center – 473 Jersey St.

The defendant is alleged to have stolen a heater, assorted food and a microphone.

September 11, 2008 – Immaculate Conception Church – 128 Targee St.

The defendant is alleged to have stolen currency.

September 14, 2008 – Mt. Sinai United Christian Church – 199 Victory Blvd.

The defendant is alleged to have stolen a Fender bass guitar, assorted canned food, assorted cleaning supplies, a Jazz Master smoke machine, Gevalia coffee maker and a space heater.

September 23, 2008 – Child Evangelism Fellowship – 102 Victory Blvd.

The defendant allegedly entered and remained unlawfully in the premises with intent to commit a crime; damaging three doors.

September 27, 2008 – First Central Baptist Church – 117 Wright St.

The defendant is alleged to have stolen currency.

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