

## Priest charged with stealing church money

*by UPI*

NEW YORK -- An Episcopal priest has been charged with stealing nearly \$85,000 from his parish to pay for his cosmetic makeover, prosecutors in New York said.

The Rev. William Blasingame, 66 allegedly stole the money from 2005 through 2008 to pay for plastic surgery, Botox treatments and expensive clothes, said the Staten Island district attorney's office.

Blasingame, the pastor of historic St. Paul's Memorial Church on Staten Island for more than 30 years, allegedly took the money from a parish building fund and a fund earmarked for needy parishioners, the New York Post reported Tuesday.

Blasingame, who has declined to comment, resigned from the church earlier this year. He was arraigned Friday and released without bail on charges of second-degree grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property, the Post said.

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