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# Teacher accused of sex abuse of Ascension student in 1970s

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A teacher who has been employed by the Archdiocese of Louisville for nearly three decades was charged yesterday with sexually abusing a former student at Ascension School over a four-year period in the 1970s.

Joseph B. Greene III, 55, of the 7800 block of Raintree Drive, was arrested at his residence about 1 a.m. yesterday. Greene was jailed on 12 counts of sodomy and four counts of sexual abuse.

Greene's accuser, a man in his late 30s, told police that from 1974, when he was about 11, until 1978, he was sexually abused by Greene, who was his teacher, according to Greene's arrest slip.

Greene is being held at the Jefferson County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 full cash bond and is scheduled to be arraigned today, said Debbie Linnig

Michals, spokeswoman for the circuit court clerk's office.

Brian Reynolds, chief administrative officer with the Archdiocese of Louisville, said Greene was suspended from his fifth-grade teaching job at Our Lady of Lourdes School, where he has been employed since 1986. Green is a lay teacher, not clergy.

Greene began teaching for the Roman Catholic archdiocese almost 28 years ago; he was at Ascension from 1974 to 1979; St. Gabriel's School for a year; Trinity High School for two to three years; then at Our Lady of Lourdes, Reynolds said.

There were some gaps in his tenure, in part because of graduate studies, Reynolds said. Greene's résumé also states that he was a substitute public school teacher between September 1979 and May 1989, Reynolds said.

No complaints had been registered with the archdiocese relating to



**Joseph B. Greene III, 55, suspended from Our Lady of Lourdes School, was arrested and jailed on charges of sodomy and sexual abuse.**

Greene, and his arrest came as a surprise, Reynolds said.

"We did not have any prior knowledge of the situation," Reynolds said.

The administration and counseling staff at Our Lady of Lourdes met with Greene's current students yesterday, and the school was to send letters home with students notifying parents of Greene's arrest, Reynolds said.

A counseling team from the archdiocese will assist counselors at the

school Monday, Reynolds said.

"Our first concern is for our students. The typical responses are questions and fears, and that's what we're addressing," Reynolds said. For students who have had positive experiences with a teacher accused of wrongdoing, "it's difficult, painful news to hear," he said.

Louisville police Capt. Richard Dotson, commander of the Louisville-Jefferson County Crimes Against Children Unit, said adults who were abused when they were younger often come forward "for closure."

"It's stuck very vividly in the victim's mind," Dotson said of cases in which a victim comes forward years later. There is no statute of limitations in felony cases, he said.

Anyone who might have information relating to the investigation of Greene can call the Crimes Against Children Unit at 574-2465, Dotson said.