

New York Newsday

EDITION

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1995 • 50 CENTS

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\$375M Sex Suit

By Dan Morrison

STAFF WRITER

Parishioners of a Queens church reacted with shock and anger yesterday after learning that their monsignor had been slapped with a multi-million-dollar sex suit.

"He's a great spiritual leader and I think this is why he's being targeted," Anthony Gesauldo said of Msgr. Nicholas Sivillo.

The \$375-million lawsuit, filed yesterday by former parishioner Susan Langford, charges that Sivillo, pastor at Our Lady of Hope in Middle Vil-

Woman accuses monsignor, Queens parish is outraged

sexual relationship in May, 1990.

Officials from the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, also a defendant, would not comment on the case.

Neighbors said Sivillo is devoted to his parish and called the allegations insane.

"You see him running up and down the street on weekends to give the

said Cathy DiTommaso, a stylist at the Crowning Glory hair salon.

Customers at the salon cast about for explanations as they read of the lawsuit.

"My feeling is she misconstrued his goodness and his sympathy for a sexual encounter," said Joanne Antonow. "He's everybody's father figure."

"couldn't be a nicer man."

Langford's attorney, Cary Goldinger, said his client is "very credible. You can't make this stuff up."

Parishioners said the allegations had blighted the neighborhood. "This is the kind of publicity that devastates a community," said Gesauldo, owner of Hill Pharmacy on 72nd Street.

"I could never believe it," he said. "Even if I saw pictures I would have a hard time believing it."

Joseph A. Gambardello contribut-