

May 18, 2005

Dear


I had an opportunity to speak with _____ since our meeting here at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. He contacted Bob and they talked about their feelings and whether or not they would be open to reconciliation. They both expressed that they do not wish to pursue it at this time. I understand that this is a disappointment for you, but invite you to continue to try.

A big part of feeling whole again can happen when we find solace ourselves. Time is a great healer and perhaps, in time, there will be a conversion of heart for other family members.

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you and your wife, _____ to the Ecumenical Healing Service for Victims of Abuse and Violence. This service will be held at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona on Thursday, May 26th at 7:00 p.m. All the churches in our area received notice of this service and have been invited. It is our hope that many will join together to pray for those who are hurting. I understand you would have to travel a distance to join us. If you cannot attend, please know that you will be in my prayers as we lift up all victims of abuse and those families affected by this violence.

I would welcome seeing you again. I will continue to pray for reconciliation for you and _____

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Bernard J. Harrington
Bishop of Winona

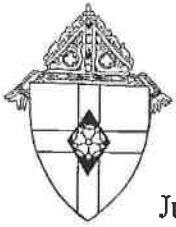
PJ Thompson

From:
Sent: Sunday, April 02, 2006 12:35 AM
To: PJ Thompson; Jeff Anderson
Subject: Anniversary

Hi PJ, Would you give this message to Bishop Harrington? Now that it's been almost a year since I visited in Winona with you and the bishop, just was wondering if anything has transpired from our conversations. I thought the bishop was going to get back to me about the ideas that we agreed on. If he doesn't remember our conversation I have a copy of it on a tape recording. I will be more than happy to get a copy to him if it would help. Look forward to hearing from you.

4/5/2006

TA000633



Office of the Chancellor

DIOCESE OF WINONA
PASTORAL CENTER

June 5, 2006

Thomas P. Adamson
Box 3034
Eau Claire, WI 54702


Dear Tom,

I am enclosing the Monthly Report form from my office and ask that you complete the information during the month of June. Return the form to my office at the end of the month.

Bishop Harrington talked to me about his recent visit. I am hopeful that the radiation treatments you received give you a hopeful report from the doctors. He also said that you had not been getting the forms from our office. I reviewed your file and the forms that we produced. I noted in several places in the file, it was difficult to distinguish the Box number as 3034 or 3039. If the Box number was written incorrectly, we use a non-return address envelope and it could have been thrown away. I took the address above from your own stationery, so I am presuming it will arrive. I will send reports the first week of each month. If you do not receive a form, please call me immediately.

Knowing the press reports can trigger some anxiety, continue to keep your daily prayer practice. As in all things, the Lord will continue to walk with you. If you have any questions or need to discuss your report, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Ms. P.J. Thompson
Chancellor

Enc.

cc: Most Rev. Bernard J. Harrington

Third Adamson lawsuit settled

Winona Diocese to pay portion of settlement

By Shawn Dalton
Winona Daily News

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Winona must pay part of "a substantial sum" of money to a 20-year-old man who filed a lawsuit claiming he was sexually abused as a child by a former diocese priest.

Details of the out-of-court settlement Wednesday were not released by agreement between both sides, but the attorney representing the plaintiff said the amount reflects the seriousness of the allegations against the Rev. Thomas Adamson.

"The amount represents a substantial recognition and acknowledgement by church authorities that they have made serious mistakes over the years, and is a major step in the recognition that they are changing their ways," St. Paul attorney Jeffery Anderson said. "(The amount) represents a realization of the serious damage done to youth by the sexual abuse (by a person in a position of authority like a priest)."



Rev. Thomas Adamson (1962)

The unidentified man who filed the suit against Adamson, 56, claimed the priest sexually abused him in late 1981 while he was a 13-year-old altar boy at the Church of the Risen Savior in Apple Valley, Minn., a suburb of Minneapolis.

The lawsuit was one of four alleging that Adamson sexually abused

► Please see PRIEST/4A

► Priest/Settlement details secret

From page 1A

boys and that church authorities allowed his abuse to continue. This award was the third settled out of court, with one more case scheduled this spring.

The other two cases were both settled out-of-court for undisclosed amounts of money.

The first was settled in April 1988. It was filed in 1987 by Gregory John Riedle, 25, of St. Paul, who claimed the priest began assaulting him in the spring of 1977 and continued until the spring of 1979. Riedle, who was 13 at the time, said he continued to suffer emotional problems as a result of the alleged abuse, and had served time in prison for sexually abusing girls, which a psychiatrist linked to childhood sexual abuse.

The other case was also settled last year. In it, another unidentified man accused the priest of sexually abusing him in 1978 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in St. Paul Park, Minn.

Anderson, who represented the alleged victims, said a fifth case may be brought later involving an

incident from the early 1960s when Adamson was a priest with the Winona Diocese at St. Adrian's Church in Adrian, Minn.

The Rev. Gerald Mahon, vicar general for the Winona Diocese, said the terms of the settlement prohibited him from commenting on either the allegations or amount the local diocese would have to pay. The Winona Diocese, along with the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, are responsible for paying the money to the plaintiff and his attorneys.

Anderson said an investigation by his office identified 21 other boys allegedly abused by Adamson, who is no longer assigned to a parish. The statute of limitations has expired on many cases, but Anderson said additional lawsuits are possible.

Originally Adamson was named alone in the lawsuits, but Anderson said the investigation showed the priest was a sexual compulsive who could not control his behavior. This, the attorney said, led to the inclusion of the church as a defendant.

"They were negligent and indifferent," Anderson said.

Act despite his claim that the bill was a "budget buster."

The 401-26 vote followed a last-minute appeal by Reagan to Republican members, who nonetheless deserted him in droves. It also apparently foreshadowed the results of an override vote scheduled for today in the Senate.

"I think it is going to be very difficult," said Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., on Tuesday morning, after meeting with

plants and \$2 billion for special cleanup projects.

Minnesota would receive \$44.6 million under the first year of the act. Of that total, about \$5.8 million would go to St. Paul to help continue the city's massive, 10-year sewer separation program. It is designed to end the release of untreated waste into the Mississippi River during periods of heavy

Please see Veto/4A

Catholic priest faces sexual abuse lawsuit

By Virginia Rybin
Staff Writer

A Catholic priest sexually abused many boys over a period of 17 to 18 years in the southern Minnesota Diocese of Winona and later in the Twin Cities, a lawsuit filed Tuesday by one of the alleged victims charges.

Church authorities, including Archbishop John Roach and three bishops, were aware of at least some of the abuse and failed to take appropriate action, the complaint filed in Ramsey County District Court alleges.

Instead of reporting the sexual contact to law enforcement authorities and removing the man from the priesthood, the document alleges, church officials referred the priest for counseling and repeatedly transferred him to new assignments. One of their aims, the complaint alleges, was avoiding adverse publicity for the church.

The lawsuit was filed by Grego-

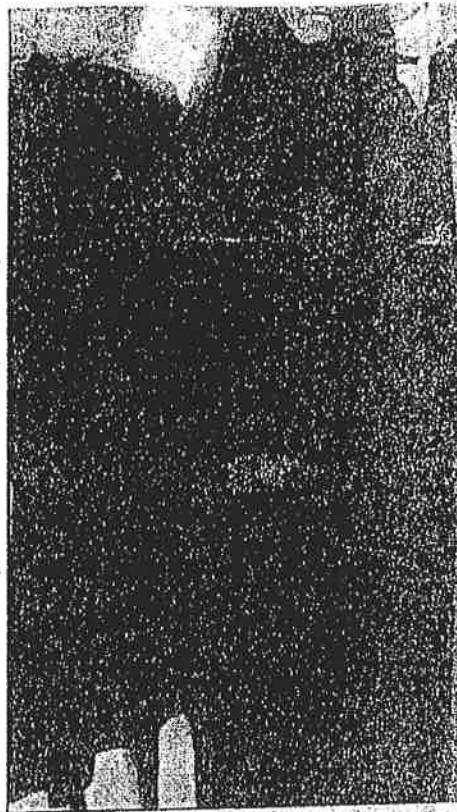
ry John Riedle and his parents, John and Janet Riedle, against the Rev. Thomas Adamson. The assaults on Riedle, now 22, allegedly occurred when he was an altar boy at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in St. Paul Park, where Adamson served as an associate pastor.

Adamson engaged in sexual contact with Riedle about once a month from the fall of 1977, when Riedle was 13, until the spring of 1979, the complaint alleges. The contact allegedly included mutual masturbation and oral sex.

Defendants in the lawsuit are the Diocese of Winona, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, St. Thomas Church and Adamson.

The lawsuit seeks compensatory damages "in excess of \$50,000" from all defendants and punitive damages "in excess of \$50,000" each from the Archdiocese and the Winona Diocese.

In the punitive damages claim
Please see Suit/4A



Fundamentalist Shiite Moslem students in protest the abductions of four professors warships were cruising just 50 miles off Let

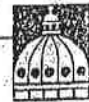
License plate issue reheats Legislature

By Jack B. Coffman
Staff Writer

The great Minnesota license plate battle reopened Tuesday in the Legislature.

When the dust settles, perhaps by May, state motorists either will have license plates good for the life of their vehicles or be required to get new ones good for several years.

The controversial issue, which has produced hundreds of blister-



LEGI

Gov. hires public to help selective package
Advo shelves groups pre the Legisla

placement s
Opponent placement the Senate

WEATHER



INSIDE

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cleaning up of American waters.

Suit

Continued from Page 1A

against the Winona Diocese, the complaint alleges that "this long history of irresponsible and outrageous conduct, the callous disregard for the safety and well-being of minor parishioner boys, the pattern of concealment and silence to maintain the cloak of dark secrecy around the sexual assaults of a priest upon minor parishioner boys" resulted in the assaults on Riedle.

The lawsuit, filed by St. Paul lawyers Jeffrey R. Anderson and Mark Reinhardt, alleges that Riedle continues to suffer emotional distress as a result of the alleged abuse. Reinhardt said Riedle has served time in prison for sexual abuse of girls, and a psychiatrist has linked those incidents to his history as an abuse victim.

St. Thomas Church, the Archdiocese and the Winona Diocese were negligent in allowing Adamson to serve as a priest, particularly one with contact with boys, in view of his known history, the complaint alleges.

Theodore Collins, Adamson's attorney, Andrew Eisenmayer, attorney for the Archdiocese, and William Hull, attorney for the Winona Diocese, all declined comment on the complaint.

In a prepared statement, the communications office of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis said officials were saddened to learn of the alleged sexual abuse, which is contrary to the Gospel and the church's ministry.

"We deeply regret the damage done to the young man who was abused and his family," the statement said. "We are beginning to work with the family of the young man who was abused in an attempt to arrive at a fair resolution of the situation."

The complaint refers to alleged assaults on at least nine boys, and suggests there may have been more victims.

The first assaults allegedly occurred in 1961 or 1962, when Adamson was associate pastor at St. Adrian's Church in Adrian, Minn., in the Winona Diocese.

Adamson allegedly told the boys that "the priest's vow of celibacy does not prohibit homosexual relationships and that the church has given priests the right to have sexual relationships with boys."

In 1963, the late Bishop Edward Fitzgerald of the Winona Diocese appointed Adamson associate pastor at St. John's Parish in Caledonia, where he allegedly engaged in sexual contact with a boy who was a parishioner.

Fitzgerald heard rumors of the sexual contact, and Adamson eventually admitted it to him, the complaint alleges. In response, Fitzgerald allegedly admonished Adamson to control his behavior and transferred him to Rochester.

In 1967, while he was assistant principal of Lourdes High School at Rochester, Adamson engaged in sexual contact with a boy from a Rochester parish, the complaint alleges. The boy's mother reported the alleged abuse, the document says, and Fitzgerald learned of it. He transferred Adamson to Albert Lea.

In 1971, Adamson returned to Rochester as pastor of St. Francis Church. He allegedly had sexual contact with several boys and admitted one assault to Bishop Loras

After hearing of other allegations of abuse by Adamson, Walters allegedly referred him for therapy. In 1974, Adamson resigned at St. Francis, supposedly because a brother of some alleged victims threatened to make the abuse public. The brother allegedly had asked Walters to dismiss Adamson.

In January 1974, Adamson transferred to the Twin Cities. Walters allegedly did not tell church authorities in the Twin Cities about the abuse. The complaint also alleges that he lied under oath by denying knowledge of Adamson's sexual assaults while giving a sworn statement in March 1986.

In June 1976, Archbishop Roach of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis appointed Adamson as associate pastor at St. Thomas.

In June 1979, Adamson was transferred to Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights. The last alleged incidents of sexual abuse supposedly occurred in 1979 with a boy in that parish.

In fall 1979, the parents of that boy informed a priest, who contacted Bishop Robert Carlson, the complaint alleges. Adamson admitted the contact to Carlson, the document says, and the archdiocese transferred him to Apple Valley.

Carlson later allegedly drafted an agreement between Roach and Adamson that forbade any contact with youth. Any breach would mean suspension and return to the Winona Diocese, Roach and Adamson signed the agreement in 1983, the complaint alleges.

In October 1984, Carlson learned of the allegations involving Riedle, and Adamson admitted them to Carlson, the complaint alleges.

None of the church authorities reported the criminal sexual contact to police, the complaint alleges.

Mumps

Continued from Page 1A

Department of Public Health. "These cases are in children that are appropriately immunized, but the vaccine is only 95 percent effective at best," said Peterson, chief of the state's section of acute disease programs. "This is a situation where when the circumstances are right, some people will be susceptible."

One problem in inhibiting the spread of mumps is that children do not always show symptoms of the disease when they have already contracted it and are capable of spreading it, Peterson said.

"Children have the mumps, don't feel sick, but they can be communicable," she said.

In 1983, 30 cases were reported statewide, and seven were reported in 1984, state health officials said. One case was reported in 1985 and another in the first nine months of 1986. The dramatic increase in the number of cases in the past few months is not a surprise, however, Peterson said.

"This is not anything very unusual in our eyes," she said. "We expect a certain number of cases once some children have been exposed."

Other states, including Illinois

Kling said experienced collaborators would be brought in to work with the show, and MPH is looking for additional writers.

"We have not hired anyone yet, but we're looking at material, some of which is promising," he said. "In terms of musicians, we're always looking for new and fresh acts. The additional strength we will have in staffing for the TV show will enable us to spend the time to really look for and bring in some fresh performers."

Kling emphasized that, aside from a live half-hour of "The Grand Ole Opry" on "The Nashville Network," the Disney Channel's televising of "A Prairie Home Companion" would be the only live national cable telecast originating from anywhere, outside of New York City or Los Angeles.

"That's a plus for this city and

Meters

Continued from Page 1A

es for people that want a spot." Public Works Department director Donald Nygaard said the proposal parallels increased parking ramp costs and reflects downtown growth.

"In the mid-'70s, things were dormant," he said. "But now downtown has developed and we're at another period of the downtown evolution. We've come to another big step, another crossroads."

Parking meter rates haven't changed since the early 1980s, and Mayor George Latimer's budget office began looking at the issue last spring, Nygaard said. The increase was subsequently set as a goal for the city's 1988 budget deliberations, which begin this spring.

The city expects parking meter revenues to rise from \$1 million to \$1.5 million under the proposal, taking into account a slight drop in usage. The city also sees the possibility of indirect financial gains because it has been involved in financing most parking ramps built in the past decade. By increasing meter rates, the city would encourage the use of those parking ramps, which in turn would help reduce debt on the projects.

City officials said they were uncertain how the proposal would be received, especially when it comes

Saudis fu for AWA

New York Times WASHINGTON — King Fahd and other top Saudi Arabian officials agreed in 1981 to aid anti-communist resistance groups around the world as part of the arrangement allowing them to buy sophisticated American AWACS radar planes, according to U.S. officials and others familiar with the deal.

As an example of this arrangement, Fahd and other officials tried in 1984 and 1985 to funnel \$15 million to the Nicaraguan rebels, according to an American businessman who said he turned down direct requests from Fahd and other Saudi officials to be a conduit for the money. The businessman said the funds were to have been sent through Richard Secord, a retired Air Force major general, and Albert Hakim, Secord's partner.

As has been reported, congress-

Man to stand trial for plot to kill priest who abused him

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (AP) — A Minnesota man accused of planning to kill a priest he says sexually assaulted him more than a decade ago has been ordered to stand trial for attempted first-degree intentional homicide.

Circuit Judge William O'Brien ordered Thursday that Gregory J. Riedle be bound over for trial on the charge even though police apprehended the defendant at an Eau Claire tavern May 21 before any actual attempt was made on the priest's life.

In tearful testimony, Riedle's girlfriend said she had expressed concern to authorities because Riedle was distraught after exposing himself to a baby sitter. She said he blamed his "sickness" on sexual abuse he suffered years ago.

The judge denied a defense motion seeking dismissal of the charge because of insufficient evidence.

Riedle was charged last week

with planning to kill the Rev. Thomas P. Adamson, a now-inactive priest. Riedle claimed the priest had sexual contact with him while Riedle was an altar boy in St. Paul Park, Minn., between 1977 and 1979.

Adamson was born in Byron and was pastor of St. Francis Catholic Church in Rochester for several years. He also was an assistant principal at Lourdes High School in the mid-1960s.

Although the priest acknowledged sexual contact, he was not prosecuted criminally because the statute of limitations had expired by the time it was revealed in 1984 or 1985.

But Riedle filed a civil suit against the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul and in 1988 accepted an out-of-court settlement that pays him \$1,000 a month.

Janel L. Schafer, Riedle's girlfriend, testified she received a telephone call from Riedle, who was distraught because he had exposed himself to a 14-year-old baby sitter.

He said "he hates the sickness he has ... and that he doesn't know how to control it," Schafer told the court. "He said had he not been abused, he wouldn't have this problem, and that he hated not being normal."

During her testimony, she didn't deny the conversation caused her to worry, but she said Riedle did not actually threaten the priest. She said Riedle wished himself and the priest dead, but he didn't say he was going to kill anyone.

Authorities said Schafer expressed concern after the conversation that Riedle was going to Wisconsin to kill the priest, who now lives near Eau Claire at Altoona.

Paul A. Miller, an Eau Claire police officer, testified he and another officer searched Riedle's car and hotel room and found a wooden club and a butcher knife wrapped in a towel.

Man charged with plotting to kill priest

From staff reports, wire services

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. — A St. Paul man has been charged with plotting to kill the Rev. Thomas Adamson, a former priest who sexually abused him as a youth.

Gregory J. Riedle, 26, was charged Thursday in Eau Claire County District Court with one count of attempted first-degree intentional homicide. He is charged with going to the Eau Claire area to kill Adamson. He believed Adamson, a former Rochester priest, was living in that area. Au-

thorities were tipped off by Riedle's girlfriend who he told about his plans.

Adamson was born in Byron and was pastor of St. Francis Catholic Church in Rochester for several years. He was also an assistant principal at Lourdes High School in the mid-1960s.

The sexual assault on Riedle happened when Adamson was serving in the Twin Cities and Riedle was an altar boy. Riedle's family sued and that suit was settled out of court for an undisclosed amount.

Adamson admitted having the sexual relationship with Riedle in the mid- to late 1970s, according to the Eau Claire County District Attorney's office. The relationship lasted more than a year but wasn't discovered until the mid-1980s, the report said.

The Eau Claire complaint states that Riedle came to Eau Claire earlier in the week after telling his girlfriend he intended to kill Adamson. Riedle remains in the county jail in lieu of \$50,000 bond. His next court appearance will be

Tuesday.

He was arrested in an Eau Claire tavern Monday after police were alerted by Minnesota authorities.

He is quoted in the complaint as telling police he was "glad you caught me now. . . . You saved a lot of people a lot of trouble."

A search of Riedle's car and motel room turned up a butcher knife, club and an apologetic note to the girlfriend. The letter read "He has to die. Unfortunately, with his death comes mine."

Bishop says he didn't know about sex abuse history

From staff reports, wire services

ANOKA, Minn. — A retired bishop of the Winona Diocese testified in a civil trial that when he became a bishop there in 1969, he was unaware one of his priests had a history of sexually abusing boys.

Bishop Loras Watters said Wednesday he received no information about the Rev. Thomas Adamson's problem from the previous bishop or other diocese officials.

Watters took the stand in the Anoka County trial in which Adamson has admitted sexual misconduct in the diocese beginning in 1961 and in the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis after he was transferred there in 1975.

A 24-year-old Columbia Heights man who contends Adamson began abusing him in 1979 is suing the two dioceses. He says the dioceses were negligent and willfully indifferent in allowing Adamson to work as a priest, when church authorities knew about his abuse history.

The man and his parents claim the abuse continued through 1984 after Adamson had been transferred to an Apple Valley church and caused serious emotional and physical damage to the victim.

But Watters' testimony Wednesday differed sharply from the version Adamson earlier told the jury and Judge Phyllis Jones.

Adamson had said he admitted to the late Bishop Edward Fitzgerald sexual improprieties between 1964 and 1967 while serving parishes or schools in Caledonia and Rochester.

Watters denied knowledge of those admissions and of Adamson's claim that previous diocesan authorities had ordered the priest to undergo psychiatric counseling.

Watters said he first learned of a potential problem through an anonymous phone call in December 1973. On the basis of that call, Watters said Wednesday, he suggested to Adamson that he consult with a psychiatrist. Watters said he was unaware that Adamson in previous years had seen a psychiatrist.

This morning Watters said Adamson was evaluated by Rochester psychiatrist Dr. Francis Tyce, who recommended that Adamson enter a treatment center in Hartford, Conn.

He was treated there for two months, returning to St. Francis Church in Rochester in August 1974. Watters said Adamson was to have followup outpatient consultations. But he learned in October or November of that year that Adamson was not regularly keeping those appointments.

Watters said he told Adamson to resume the outpatient appointments or face possible removal from the parish.

In December 1974, Watters said, he received an anonymous phone call from a man complaining about improper contact by Adamson. He said he met with Adamson and determined the call came from a staff member at St. Francis whose brother had been abused by Adamson at Adrian, Minn.

The person called back a few days later and threatened to take over the pulpit at St. Francis to denounce Adamson.

Watters said he told the caller that he would not remove Adamson on the basis of anonymous phone calls. But he told jurors today that he already had decided to remove Adamson from St. Francis.

Watters said he met with the victim, then a priest who was being treated in Rochester for alcoholism, but the victim did not talk about abuse by Adamson.

Watters said he removed Adamson within a week of the second call in order to get Adamson involved in outpatient consultation. The threat of public exposure by the caller was one factor in his decision, Watters said.

Adamson's recollection of how he came to enter treatment differed sharply from Watters'. He testified that while he was pastor in Rochester, he had sexually touched a youth in a swimming pool in April 1974. Adamson said he admitted the incident to Watters, which resulted in his entering treatment. Watters had no recollection of that Wednesday.

Church settles abuse lawsuit

Rev. Adamson was target of complaint

By Conrad deFiebre
Staff Writer

A 20-year-old man has accepted "a substantial sum" to settle his suit accusing a Roman Catholic priest of sexually abusing him when he was 13, the man's lawyer said Wednesday.

The undisclosed settlement to be paid by church officials "represents significant recognition of the damage that is done when a Catholic priest breaches the trust he is given, even on one occasion," said the lawyer, Jeffrey Anderson of St. Paul.

The suit alleged that the Rev. Thomas Adamson molested the plaintiff, identified only as John Doe, at the Apple Valley Church of the Risen Savior in late 1981. A trial in the suit against the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Diocese of Winona was scheduled to begin Monday in Ramsey County District Court. Adamson has been accused of abusing as many as 25 boys over 20 years in eight parishes in the Twin Cities and southern Minnesota. He has admitted some of the allegations and denied others, including those in the John Doe suit.

Church officials and their attorney, Andrew Eisenzimmer, could not be reached for comment yesterday. When a similar suit involving Adamson was settled out of court last year, Eisenzimmer said only that church officials were "pleased with the settlement." Anderson has filed suits on behalf of four of Adamson's alleged victims. One involving Gregory John Riedle of St. Paul was settled last April, also for an undisclosed amount. Two other suits on behalf of unnamed plaintiffs at Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights and in Rochester, Minn., are awaiting trial.

Adamson, no longer an active priest, was a defendant in the Riedle suit, but not the others. Anderson said that as the suits proceeded it became clear that Adamson was a sexual compulsive who could not control his behavior, but that church officials turned their backs on the problem and continued to assign him to different parishes.

"They were negligent and indifferent," Anderson said. "Adamson was like a mad dog foaming at the mouth, and they turned him loose in the schoolyard."

Priest allegedly abused 5 Rochester boys

By **BONNIE BRESSERS**

Post-Bulletin Staff Writer

Five Rochester area boys are among 14 children allegedly abused by a priest who formerly served in the Winona Diocese, according to court documents filed in a lawsuit against the Winona Diocese and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The Rev. Thomas Adamson, 54, the subject of two lawsuits alleging sexual abuse of children, has acknowledged molesting youths in Rochester and other parishes he has served, according to court depositions.

Under a motion filed in Ramsey County District Court, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Diocese of Winona would be assessed punitive damages for allegedly covering up sexual abuse by Adamson over the past 23 years.

The 102-page motion for punitive damages, filed Wednesday, will be heard by Judge Kathleen Gearin at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 17, said Jeffrey R. Anderson, the St. Paul attorney who filed the motion on behalf of Mary Doe and her minor son, John Doe.

Anderson said an investigation shows that Adamson allegedly sexually abused 14 children, including five from the Rochester area.

There was attempted sexual contact with two boys in 1967, when Adamson was a teacher at Lourdes High School, Anderson said. He said Adamson asked both boys to remove their clothing and one complied.

Adamson was transferred from Rochester, but he eventually returned to St. Francis parish. Anderson said a 1973 incident involved a 13-year-old Rochester boy in a swimming pool, and a 1974 incident involved a 14-year-old Rochester boy in a sauna.

Adamson was then sent for treatment, according to Anderson, but three months later he returned to St. Francis. At that time, the family of a 1961 victim demanded his removal, Anderson said.

The fifth Rochester victim has not been identified, he said.

Anderson said the documents filed in court "show a shocking breadth of knowledge among church officials and priests that was undiscovered before."

One of the lawsuits against Adamson alleges that the priest sexually abused Gregory Riedle from 1977 to 1979, while Riedle was an altar boy at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in St. Paul Park. Riedle was 13 when the abuse allegedly began. Adamson has admitted that abuse in a sworn statement.

The other lawsuit alleges that Adamson abused an unidentified 13-year-old Dakota County boy at least once in the fall of 1982, while the priest was assigned to the Church of the Risen Savior in Burnsville. Adamson admitted to being in a whirlpool with the boy but denied any improper touching, court documents show.

Adamson has said he had sexual contact or attempted sexual contact with about nine other boys, according to the documents.

Three Adrian boys were the first of Adamson's victims, the documents said. The first allegedly was abused in 1961. Adamson also allegedly abused or attempted to abuse one boy in Caledonia.

After the transfer to the Twin Cities, incidents involving Riedle, another boy at St. Thomas Aquinas and a male hitchhiker allegedly occurred. In 1980, Adamson allegedly abused a boy at Immaculate Conception Church in

Columbia Heights.

Church officials allegedly first learned of the allegations in 1964. Adamson was dismissed from parish work in 1984.

Both lawsuits allege that highly placed church officials in the archdiocese and in the Diocese of Winona knew of Adamson's abuse of other boys and could have prevented the abuse of the two who sued. Instead, the lawsuits allege, they continued to assign Adamson to parishes.

The investigation has revealed that two Winona bishops, Loras Watters and Edward Fitzgerald, the Diocesan priests' personnel board, at least 15 other priests, a Catholic high school principal and three teachers knew of at least some of the abuse in that diocese. That shows a pattern of "coverup and a conspiracy," Anderson said.

The Rev. Gerald A. Mahon, Vicar General of the Diocese of Winona, said the diocese will file an official response in a few weeks.

"Both the Diocese of Winona and Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis recognize the serious pastoral problem and we intend to work in close collaboration in continuing to address it — both legally and pastorally," he said. "It is obviously a very painful situation for all parties concerned."

In February, Archbishop John Roach of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis denied knowledge of the situation.

The lawsuits contend that this and other signs of problems should have led Roach to inquire further.

Watters, who has since retired, last winter also denied wrongdoing in the Adamson case.

This story includes material from The Associated Press.

Rochester paper

City/Region

Advisor: Archbishop overruled attempts to have Adamson fired

Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — A chief advisor to Archbishop John Roach told a jury that he twice warned that the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul would one day regret not firing a priest for sexually abusing boys, but was overruled both times.

Bishop Robert Carlson, chancellor of the archdiocese, testified in Anoka County Court Friday that he vigorously argued in January 1981 against the Rev. Thomas Adamson's assignment to an Apple Valley church. A month earlier, Roach had forced Adamson to resign from Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights after he admitted that he had sex with a boy.

Carlson said he "didn't trust" Adamson and suspected he had multiple victims and was a risk to repeat the behavior. But after a heated discussion, the bishop said, Roach overruled him.

Adamson was under orders not to have contact with any youths after the priest's 1980 admission, Carlson said.

The bishop said that Catholic leaders knew that Adamson had

sexually abused a boy in 1980, but they waited more than six years before sharing the information with parents of another boy who was close to the priest.

While the order was in effect, Carlson heard at least two reports that Adamson was seen with another boy, but the boy's parents were not warned, he said.

"It did not occur to the archbishop that I go see them," Carlson testified.

Not until 1987, after the first of several sexual abuse lawsuits against Adamson began to be filed, did Carlson instruct a priest at Immaculate Conception to contact the parents of the second boy, Carlson said.

Now 24, the man has filed a lawsuit accusing Adamson of sexually abusing him for nine years beginning in 1979. The suit against Adamson, the archdiocese and the Diocese of Winona, contends church officials exhibited willful indifference to the safety of others by assigning Adamson to parish work given the priest's sexual history.

The suit seeks unspecified

compensatory and punitive damages. Church officials admit they made mistakes in handling Adamson, but they deny willful indifference.

Parishioners at Immaculate Conception were not told of the abuse incident and Adamson's reappointment to the Apple Valley church was intentionally not published in the Catholic Bulletin, the archdiocesan newspaper, Roach testified Thursday. The archbishop said that he wanted to avoid a "public scandal."

Carlson said he and Roach knew for certain only that Adamson had abused one boy at the Columbia Heights church and that there were reports of a homosexual relationship between Adamson and an adult from the Rochester area.

"I had this feeling — although there was no way I could prove it — that Father Adamson was admitting only what we definitely knew already," Carlson said in court.

Roach testified Thursday that he placed too much emphasis on the positive elements of a psychiatric evaluation of Adamson,

who underwent 19 days of inpatient psychotherapy after resigning from Immaculate Conception. Unbeknownst to Carlson and Roach at the time, the program treated Adamson for depression instead of sexual problems.

Roach and Carlson each testified that they didn't understand the true scope of Adamson's problem because they were ignorant about pedophilia — a disorder in which adults are sexually attracted to children.

"I thought we were dealing with an isolated act of homosexuality and as it turns out we're clearly dealing with the disease of pedophilia," Carlson testified.

Roach also said he stood by Adamson because he always had a strong desire to help priests overcome personal problems.

"I want to help people, but I really want to help priests," Roach said in court Thursday.

Carlson said he was again overruled by Roach in 1983 when he sought to fire Adamson after the priest admitted being in a whirlpool bath with a teen-age boy.

Tenacious lawyer carves out a specialty

VIRGINIA RYBIN STAFF WRITER

Jeff Anderson was a rebellious high school student. His academic career then and later was often less than impressive.

The long-haired, self-proclaimed "hippie" and Vietnam War protester of his college and law school years now sits behind a desk in a fancy law office, has shorter hair and wears expensive suits.

But the same iconoclastic rebel is still inside. Friends say that personality uniquely suits Anderson for his present work of taking on a major force in the establishment — organized religion.

Jeffrey R. Anderson, 42, specializes in representing victims of sexual abuse who are suing their alleged abusers in civil cases. He is recognized as a national

Jeff Anderson's roundabout career leads to aiding victims of sex abuse by clergy and others in positions of authority

expert in this field.

While he handles a variety of cases involving abusers in positions of authority over their victims, including psychiatrists and teachers, the St. Paul lawyer has become most well-known for representing victims who were abused by members of the clergy. Several of his highly publicized cases have involved

ANDERSON CONTINUED ON 9A ▶

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Watters denies wrongdoing

By PATRICK McILHERAN
and DAVE KRAEMER
Winona Daily News

The former bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Winona on Wednesday denied any wrongdoing in the case of a priest who has been accused of sexually assaulting boys.

"On the advice of legal counsel," said retired Bishop Loras J. Watters in a prepared statement, "I have no statement to make at this time, except to deny all allegations of negligence, fault, or wrongdoing on the part of the Diocese of Winona." The statement was read to the Daily News by Ivan Kubista, diocese communications director. Kubista said Watters was too distraught over the allegations to talk with the press.

The allegations came to light Tuesday after an amended lawsuit was filed in Ramsey County District Court in St. Paul. The lawsuit, filed by Gregory Riedle, 22, of St. Paul, and his parents, John and Janet Riedle of St. Paul Park, Minn., claims that a priest now living in Winona, the Rev. Thomas Adamson, sexually assaulted Riedle repeatedly from 1977 to 1979. Riedle was then an altar boy at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, St. Paul Park. The suit is a civil matter, and no criminal accusations or charges have been made against Adamson.

Riedle is seeking at least \$50,000 each in damages from the Diocese of Winona, the Minneapolis-St. Paul Archdiocese, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, and Adamson. The essence of his claim, said attorney Jeff Anderson, is that Riedle himself became a sexual offender as a result of what he said was abuse by Adamson.

Adamson, 1764 W. Broadway, apt. 308, could not be reached Wednesday by telephone or at his apart-



Rev. Thomas Adamson in 1962.

ment, nor would Winona Diocese officials release any information on him. He is, according to Winona Diocese attorney Richard Chadwick, no longer active as a priest, and information in the suit claims that he last worked as a priest in January 1985 at a parish in Apple Valley, Minn.

In the suit, Riedle also claims that from 1961 until 1979, Adamson engaged in sexual activities with at least nine boys, identified only as John Does in the complaint. Riedle's lawsuit claims that Adamson had sex with boys at Adrian, Minn., Caledonia, Minn., and Rochester, Minn., where he was, from 1964-1967, the assistant principal at Lourdes High School, as well as later at parishes in the Twin Cities area.

According to the lawsuit, Adamson underwent treatment for his alleged sexual misconduct a number of times, including a stay in the former Rochester State Hospital

in the 1960s, and trips to mental institutions in Connecticut and Missouri.

But Winona Diocese Chancellor Fr. Donald Schmitz refused to corroborate any details of Adamson's career. He wouldn't say whether Adamson had undergone mental treatment, nor would he say what Adamson is now doing.

Dr. Francis Tyce, who served as a psychiatrist at the Rochester State Hospital during the 1960s and 1970s, and who was alleged in the suit to have pronounced Adamson "incurable," on Wednesday said he could not remember Adamson. "I have nothing to comment about the situation," he said.

Attorney Anderson said the whole affair came to light after Riedle underwent a counseling program in 1984 when he was a prisoner at the St. Cloud (Minn.) State Reformatory. According to the attorney, Riedle had been serving a term after being convicted of criminal sexual conduct in a case involving girls, a sentence from which he was paroled in May of 1985. Before Riedle claimed having sex with Adamson to a counselor, said his attorney, Riedle's parents had no knowledge of the alleged incidents.

Anderson said that since John and Janet Riedle didn't find out about their son's claims until 1984, they couldn't seek criminal charges against Adamson, because the three-year statute of limitations on the crime of which the priest is accused had run out.

Misdemeanor charges of indecent exposure from an incident last April are pending against Riedle, according to the Ramsey County Attorney's office.

And the suit claims that while officials of both the Winona Diocese

See ADAMSON, page 5

Priest's career began here

According to information pieced together by the Winona Daily News staff from the second amended civil complaint filed by Gregory Riedle against the Rev. Thomas Adamson and from college yearbooks and news articles, the following is a chronology of Adamson's life.

1933 — Born in Byron, Minn. Attended high school at Lourdes High in Rochester, Minn.

1954 — Graduated from Saint Mary's College, Winona, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy.

1958 — Ordained May 31 after attending Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, Winona.

1959-1961 — Resided at St. Casimir's Catholic Parish, Winona, while working at churches in Fountain, Wykoff and Lanesboro, Minn. Also during this time he taught at Cotter High School in Winona.

June 16, 1961 — Appointed by Bishop Edward A. Fitzgerald, Winona Diocese, as assistant principal at St. Adrian's High School and associate pastor at St. Adrian's Church in Adrian, Minn. Coached B-squad basketball where he met and allegedly first engaged in sexual contact with John Doe I, an alleged victim noted in the current civil complaint, and other boys.

Aug. 20, 1963 — Appointed superintendent of schools and associate pastor at St. Mary's Parish in Caledonia, Minn. Continued to coach boy's basketball and allegedly engaged in sexual contact with John Doe II. Rumors of the "inappropriate sexual contact" were reported to Fitzgerald.

November 1964 — Adamson was transferred to Rochester, Minn., after allegedly admitting to Fitzgerald that he had engaged in sexual contact with at least one minor boy.

November 1964-June 1966 — Employed as assistant principal at Lourdes High School in Rochester.

1967 — Allegedly engaged in sexual contact with John Doe III in Rochester. The boy's mother reported it to Rev. Raymond Jansen, pastor at St. John's Parish, Rochester. Jansen reported to Rev. Bernard Mangan, pastor at St. Pius X Church in Rochester. Adamson was referred to Dr. Francis

Tyce, head of the psychiatric unit at Rochester State Hospital, where he received approximately 15 therapy sessions during three months. Contact was also reported to Bishop Fitzgerald, who transferred Adamson to Albert Lea, Minn.

June 1971-Dec. 1975 — Adamson was employed by the Winona Diocese as pastor of St. Francis Church in Rochester.

Late fall, 1973 — Adamson allegedly engaged in sexual contact with John Doe IV, a minor boy, at a pool in Rochester. Contact was reported and admitted to Rev. Raymond Jansen, and to Bishop Loras Watters, who confronted Adamson.

December 1973 or Jan. 1974 — Watters received a report from a social worker in Rochester that Adamson had engaged in sexual contact with John Doe V, a minor boy whose mother was on Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

April 15, 1974 — Adamson, while still serving as pastor of St. Francis Parish in Rochester, allegedly engaged in sexual contact with John Doe VI, a 14-year-old boy, while in a sauna. Watters was informed and referred Adamson to Tyce for therapy.

May 10, 1974 — Adamson began outpatient therapy with Rev. Kenneth Pierre at Consultation Services Center in St. Paul.

June 4, 1974 — Adamson was admitted to the Institute for Living in Hartford, Conn., for inpatient therapy for psychosexual problems. He was discharged on Aug. 9, 1974 in a "slightly improved" condition.

August 1974 — Adamson returned to his assignment as pastor of St. Francis Parish in Rochester.

December 1974 — John Doe I, now a priest in the Winona Diocese and undergoing treatment for alcoholism, admitted to his family he was assaulted as a child by Adamson and that the relationship continued approximately 10 years. Shortly thereafter, two brothers of John Doe I, who are identified as John Doe VII and John Doe VIII, told their family of sexual advances or contact by Adamson. A fourth brother also called Watters, saying Adamson had sexually

See CAREER, page 5

Water

Liberge Dies

Adamson

From page 1

and the Minneapolis-St. Paul Archdiocese knew about Adamson's abuses, they too sought no legal action.

A Minnesota law, which went into affect in 1975, requires professionals who work with children to report possible abuse cases.

In addition to compensatory damages, Riedle is looking for punitive damages against both dioceses, claiming that while they knew of Adamson's alleged sexual abuses, they simply transferred him to other parishes rather than suspending him from his duties.

The Twin Cities archdiocese had no substantial comment on the suit. Archdiocesan officials released a statement Tuesday saying that the church regrets "the damage done to the young man who was allegedly abused and the pain caused his family." The statement went on to say the archdiocese is becoming more aware of sexual abuse, and noted that such abuse violates the church's teachings and ministry. Watters on Wednesday said he agrees with the statement.

While many of the accusations in the lawsuit are against Adamson, some are against Watters, who resigned from his bishopric in Winona in September. On sworn testimony from Adamson, attorney Anderson claims in the suit that Watters knew about the alleged misconduct as early as 1973. The suit also claims that Watters denied under oath



Bishop Loras Watters

knowledge of the misconduct. When other alleged victims of Adamson reported the misconduct to their families, said the suit, officials of the diocese negotiated with them to keep the allegations from becoming public.

Anderson said the suit he is handling for Riedle makes no accusa-

tions against Adamson before 1961. A native of Byron, Minn., the 53-year-old priest graduated from Saint Mary's College in 1954 with a degree in philosophy, and was ordained in Winona in 1958. In the 1959 and 1961 Winona city directories, he is listed as living at St. Casimir's Parish rectory in Winona. During this time he taught at Cotter High School in Winona and served in parishes in Wykoff, Lanesboro, and Fountain, Minn.

According to Riedle's suit, the last reported incident of sexual misconduct claimed against Adamson took place in 1979, when he was at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Columbia Heights, Minn.

Anderson said that as it stands, the next probable action in the case would be on March 10, when it will come before the Ramsey County District Court to formally approve certain amendments to the claim. While Anderson included in the claim some information from the sworn depositions, or testimony, of Adamson, Watters, and others, he refused to release the actual depositions, citing fears that the information, if made public, might prejudice the case. "There's a lot of explosive stuff in there," he said.

Nor would Anderson say just how much the Riedles are seeking. By state law, he said, he can only mention that each defendant is being sued for more than \$50,000, but, he said, "The sums are far in excess of that."

Career

From page 1

abused several minor boys. The brother demanded that Adamson be removed from the priesthood. During this time, other priests were informed and the fourth brother, identified as John Doe XI, threatened to publically expose Adamson. Ultimately, Adamson chose to resign his parish at St. Francis and was apparently transferred to St. Paul where he continued outpatient treatment with Pierre.

1975 — Adamson made numerous requests to return to the Winona Diocese. Watters refused each request.

Feb. 10, 1976 — Archbishop Roach appointed Adamson as temporary administrator of the Church of the St. Boniface in St. Bonifacius, Minn.

June 1, 1976 — Adamson was appointed as associate pastor at the Church of St. Thomas Aquinas in St. Paul Park, Minn., and was assigned to supervise the recreational activities of altar boys.

1977 — Plaintiff Gregory Riedle, then 13, became an altar boy and in the fall or winter was allegedly sexually contacted by Adamson in a YMCA steam room.

1977-1979 — Riedle says Adamson continued to engage in sexual contact with him approximately once a month.

June 1979 — Adamson was transferred by Roach and the Archdiocese Priest Personnel Board to the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Columbia Heights, Minn., where he allegedly engaged in sexual contact with John Doe X.

Fall 1979 — Adamson was transferred to the Church of the Risen Savior in Apple Valley, Minn., after the archdiocese learned of the contact.

December 1980 — Adamson was placed in treatment with Dr. Joseph Jendron, including inpatient treatment at St. Mary's Hospital (location of hospital not identified in lawsuit) from Jan. 4-23, 1981. The treatment continued through Oct. 30, 1984.

1983 — Riedle first reported that he had been sexually abused by Adamson to Paul Ringsmuth, a vocational rehabilitation counselor at St. Cloud State Prison.

January 1985 — Adamson left The Church of the Risen Savior in Apple Valley.

February-April 1985 — Adamson received treatment at the Servants of the Paraclete in St. Louis, Mo.

1986 — Adamson's name appears in Winona City Directory, with an address of 1764 W. Broadway, apt. 308.

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Court: Parents can't recover damages in child abuse case

Associated Press

ST. PAUL — Parents cannot recover damages for loss of a child's companionship or mental distress when their children are sexually abused, the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled today.

A three-judge panel overturned a jury's \$26,500 award to a couple for loss of their daughter's companionship and a Polk County District Court judge's allocation of \$33,333 in punitive damages to the parents.

"We recognize the genuine loss and psychological suffering caused to the parents of a sexually abused minor, and find (the parents') argument to have strong sympathetic appeal," wrote Judge Thomas Kalitowski in the unanimous ruling.

However, Kalitowski said, state law disallows the awards to the parents.

Traditional Minnesota common law allows parents to recover damages based on injury to their child only for medical expenses and for loss of the child's earnings, contributions and services the parents would have received until the child reached majority age, Kalitowski wrote.

And the state Supreme Court explicitly has denied a cause of action for loss of consortium in the parent-child context, he said.

"We recognize that basing parents' recovery for injury to the child on loss of the child's earnings and-or economic contributions has been found to be an outmoded concept, suited to the agrarian society of the last century in which it developed but inappropriate in modern times," Kalitowski said.

"We also note that some jurisdictions have recognized a parents' cause of action to recover damages for their psychological injury resulting from sexual abuse of their child. However, after a careful review of the relevant precedents, we conclude that such an expansion of parents' recovery is not consistent with Minnesota law."

According to court documents, the parents of a girl who was sexually abused by Alvin Darold Moran from 1979 to 1985, when she was between the ages of 6 and 12, filed a civil action against Moran. It was filed after he pleaded guilty to criminal charges stemming from the abuse of their daughter and two other girls.

Sexual abuse lawsuits may cite Vatican

■ Porter advised Rome of his pedophilia in '73

JIM GEORGE STAFF WRITER

Minnesota sex abuse victims of a former Catholic priest might take their lawsuits to the Vatican's doorstep because of church documents in which the ex-priest recites to the pope a 13-year history of homosexual abuse of boys.

Jeffrey Anderson, who represents 20 alleged victims of James Porter, said documents just released by a Washington County judge connect Porter with the Holy See through Porter's 1973 petition to be removed from the priesthood — called laicization.

"We think these documents implicate the Vatican . . . that it makes the church in Rome morally and legally responsible," Anderson said. "Because of his (Porter's) petition to be removed, officials in Rome were aware of the numerous victims involved and yet they did nothing to help heal them, to minister to Porter's victims."

Anderson said he hasn't yet added the Vatican to the named defendants in his lawsuits, but he is considering it. He believes the papers make even stronger his case against Porter, the Crookston Diocese, the Fall River Diocese in Massachusetts and the Servants of the Paraclete in New Mexico.

Porter, who left the priesthood in 1974, was convicted in December of sexually abusing a girl who was baby-sitting for him at his Oakdale home in 1987. The Fall River diocese recently settled numerous civil suits in connection with Porter's abuse but he still faces criminal sex charges there.



Porter

PORTER CONTINUED ON 11A ▶

to keep his clerical collar, Boyok said, the diocese has slapped in the face those who suffered at the hands of McFadden.

Past and present bishops protected the clergyman, and for years allowed him to administer the sacraments even after he had confessed his sins as a sex abuser.

"They keep calling him Father McFadden," Boyok said. "What kind of father does this to his children?"

To Boyok and some other Iowa Catholics, the priest is a sexual predator who should be behind bars. "The diocese should take all the money they're paying him and distribute it to his victims," Boyok said. "We haven't filed any lawsuits because we know any money we would win would come from our community. If it were McFadden's money, I'd take it gladly."

Although the statute of limitations on sex crimes in Iowa has expired for McFadden's alleged assaults, Boyok and other alleged victims from St. Francis would like

Contacted by the Register, the suicide victim's mother said she did not wish to speak publicly about her son's death. She confirmed, however, that her family told a parish priest in 1984 that they did not want McFadden to help preside over her son's funeral. The priest, she said, knew it was because of the abuse of her son.

(The parish priest, the diocese says, denies he was told of the abuse.)

Sokolowski said she also spoke to two priests in the years between

just started to cry," Sokolowski said. "I couldn't cry. I was angry."

Sokolowski said her fourth child, who was very close to McFadden, detests the Catholic Church now and has thus far been unwilling to discuss whether abuse occurred.

Even when children of St. Francis did come forward, some parents didn't believe them.

Chester Jablonski said at the age of 7, his youngest son tried to tell him he was being hurt, but "we wouldn't listen to him, like everyone else."

Looking back, the 78-year-old

in Jefferson. The deeply troubled former altar boy said he was ostracized after he spoke of the repeated molestations he suffered as a teenager.

Since the Register's first article about Nash in March, the newspaper has learned of at least 20 other alleged victims from Le Mars, Sioux City and Jefferson.

Several of them have declined to speak publicly, saying either that they have put the abuse behind them or that talking about it would embarrass relatives still living in Iowa.

In 40 years, 1,500 priests linked to sex abuse in U.S.

Over the past four decades, about 1,500 priests nationally — including at least 12 in Iowa — have acknowledged or been accused of abuse, according to church officials.

Tom Chapman, a spokesman for

the Des Moines Diocese, said other cases are likely to emerge as dioceses review all priests' records in the wake of the abuse charter.

In addition to hundreds of civil lawsuits filed since January, seven grand jury investigations over

priestly misconduct are under way across the country, according to USA Today. The probes are focusing on the role of bishops and other church officials in ignoring or covering up sexual abuse by priests.

Bishops begin to clean house; case reviews intensify

By RACHEL ZOLL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

America's Roman Catholic bishops spent the past week meeting with priests, recruiting parishners for review boards and taking sex abusers off the job as they started implementing their ambitious policy to end the church's molestation crisis.

Yet even as Catholic leaders began to clean house, outside pressure from law enforcement authorities was building.

Some bishops returned home

from the Dallas summit where the policy was approved and promptly went beyond the action plan, which requires bishops to remove abusive priests from public ministry.

The 10 bishops of Minnesota and the Dakotas said they will hire an outside auditor to review whether they're in compliance with the policy.

Archbishop Patrick Flores of San Antonio pledged to not only oust molesters from parish duty but also to ask the Vatican to

defrock all of them — which is optional.

"I brought back a sense of urgency from the meeting and I think most bishops did also," said Bishop William Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., one of the eight prelates who drafted the policy.

Civil authorities also stepped up their investigation of abuse in the church.

Prosecutors began reviewing the cases of 15 priests accused of abuse in San Diego County. Massachusetts became the ninth state

with grand juries investigating clerical molestation. A judge unsealed court files on how the Joliet, Ill., Diocese handled claims against its clergy.

Lawyers representing alleged victims took a new approach, too. Attorney Jeff Anderson said he will try to reopen a high-profile Cleveland case by arguing that the diocese's failure to tell civil authorities about claims against the Rev. Carl Wernet, who died years ago, voided the statute of limitations. Eight women say Wernet

abused them when they were children.

Anderson expects to file many more lawsuits. "We've seen dozens of victims every single day, people who are ready to come forward for the first time," he said.

The bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was adopted June 14 at a tumultuous meeting forced by months of scandal in which at least 250 priests have resigned or been suspended because of misconduct claims.

DiNardo called "absolutely horrible" the news of the Sioux City man's suicide, the second suicide in Iowa linked recently to clergy sex abuse. The bishop said he learned of the man's suffering after he received a letter from the victim's parents in March.

The bishop's remorse comes too late for Sokolowski and others who looked to the church to protect their children. "I have lost all faith in the hierarchy," Sokolowski said. "I also feel differently about the church now. I have not stopped praying and still have faith in God, but I pray daily for all abused victims, their parents and families."

Reporter Les Reed can be reached at (516) 234-8048 or reedl@nynj.omegac.com

A TOAST TO BAR TIME

While details of the session's weightiest bills created headaches for lawmakers Thursday, a few joined the governor to toast a small victory: a deal that would allow bars to stay open an hour later.

The agreement would permit cities to extend bar closing to 2 a.m. Businesses choosing to take advantage of the option would pay a fee of between \$200 and \$600, depending on volume of liquor sales.

The new hours would take effect Aug. 1. That's expected to bring in about \$6 million over the next two years, with the money being used to put more state troopers on the road.

ST. PAUL (AP) — A wee-hour deal Thursday cleared the way for votes on a nearly \$11.9 billion finance package for preschool through adult learning programs, by far the largest chunk of the state's budget.

Legislators were hoping to get the plan to Gov. Tim Pawlenty before adjourning for the night.

After accounting for payment shifts — including delaying some aid checks to districts — the bill reduces education funding by \$185 million from the current-law level. That's roughly a 2 percent cut. Before shifts, it's a \$621 million cut. Early childhood and family education programs take a 20 percent hit.

GOP House negotiators touted the plan as "fair and balanced for all schools in the state." Their DFL Senate counterparts took a dimmer view, with Sen. Steve Kelley of Hopkins predicting "an acceleration of class sizes and program reductions" in many districts.

"Some districts will have to do

more cuts than they were thinking about," Kelley said. "The governor failed in his promise to protect the classroom."

House Education Finance Chairwoman Alice Seagren, R-Bloomington responded: "The hysteria is a little bit overblown. I am not hearing huge cries of pain."

For K-12 schools, the bedrock per-pupil formula will remain at \$4,601 for the next two years. Other funding streams, however, are altered.

Less money will be available for districts that rely on state aid to run after-school and summer-school programs. Extra assistance to offset the cost of teaching students English as a second language will be granted for only five years per student instead of the current indefinite period.

The state will pick up a higher share of local property taxes when districts get levies approved by voters. The levy cap will also rise, helping many suburban districts that have maxed out.

■ Whether to borrow against future revenues to boost spending on roads or bridges or use money from an existing account.

■ Whether to change the way the state delivers health care so the state would agree to cover only a limited number of doctor's services.

■ Whether to change the state's welfare programs to make them stricter on work requirements and make other changes, such as banning people from buying junk food with food stamps.

■ What projects to include in a bonding bill, which would authorize \$150 million to \$210 million in state borrowing for construction projects.

■ Whether and how to change the formula that distributes money from the state to local municipalities. Pawlenty on Tuesday said that issue would likely be the last to be resolved.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty said he suggested to House Speaker Steve Sviggum that if House Democrats refused to suspend rules and allow bills to be brought up on the floor as they finished, the House should meet over the weekend to "see if that doesn't create an incentive."

Altar boy's suit accuses priest of abuse, seeks \$50,000

By Jerome Christenson
Winona Daily News

An anonymous plaintiff is suing the Diocese of Winona for damages resulting from a sexual assault he claims took place 36 years ago.

The suit was filed in February in Ramsey County District Court and has been transferred to Winona County District Court after a successful change of venue motion by the diocese. The suit seeks damages "in excess of \$50,000" plus attorneys' fees and other costs.

The plaintiff, identified in court

■ The suit specifically charges the diocese with negligence, sexual battery, fiduciary fraud and breach of fiduciary duty.

documents only as John Doe 76A, claims he was sexually abused in 1967 when he was 13 to 14 years old, by the Rev. Thomas Adamson, then a priest serving the Diocese of Winona. The suit claims that as a result of the abuse the plaintiff "has

suffered and will continue to suffer great pain of mind and body" which required medical and psychological treatment.

Court documents filed on behalf of the plaintiff state he was "raised in a devout Roman Catholic family, served as an altar boy" and was an active, practicing member of the church. His devotion to the church and respect for the clergy made him particularly vulnerable to Adamson's advances and made them particularly damaging, the suit says. The suit claims that the "sexual abuse and the circumstances under

which it occurred" led the plaintiff to develop psychological "coping mechanisms, including denial and dissociation from his experiences."

"Plaintiff did not know, nor did he have reason to know, that he had been sexually abused and/or that his injuries were caused by his sexual abuse until recently," the complaint states. The suit claims that the diocese "recently ... promised to pay for therapy for the plaintiff" but subsequently backed out of that pledge.

The suit specifically charges the

Please see SUIT/3A

over

From Page 1A

diocese with negligence, sexual battery, fiduciary fraud, and breach of fiduciary duty.

Adamson was accused of sexual misconduct in a number of suits filed in the 1980s against the Archdiocese of St. Paul and the Diocese of Winona. Adamson admitted having sexual contact with boys while a priest, teacher

and school administrator for the Diocese of Winona, beginning in 1961 and continuing after he was transferred to the St. Paul archdiocese in 1975. In one of those cases, a jury in 1990 initially awarded \$2.7 million in punitive damages to a former Columbia Heights altar boy who had been abused by Adamson. That award that was significantly reduced on appeal.

The case for John Doe 76A is being handled by St. Paul attorney Jeffrey Anderson, the same attorney who represented the Columbia Heights man.

Telephone calls to attorneys for the plaintiff and the diocese and a designated diocesan spokesman were not returned Thursday.



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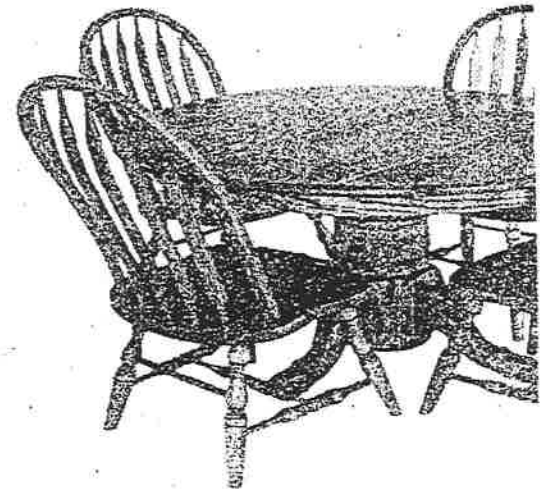
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Damages sought in alleged abuse by priest

*Minneapolis
Post-Tribune*

By Larry Oakes
Staff Writer

Attorneys in St. Paul sought legal permission Wednesday to claim punitive damages from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Diocese of Winona in suits alleging a 25-year coverup of a priest's sexual abuse of children.

St. Paul attorney Jeffrey R. Anderson said in documents filed in Ramsey County District Court that more victims have come forward and more evidence of an "institutional cover-up" has surfaced since two lawsuits alleging the abuse were filed in February.

The new documents cite 14 victims, four more than the 10 that Adamson allegedly has admitted abusing in sworn depositions. Partly because the church never conducted an investigation, it is impossible to determine if that is the full extent of the abuse, court documents say.

"No one but Father Adamson knows how many victims have not been discovered or counseled," said Anderson in his punitive damage request, which must be approved by the court. Punitive damages can be awarded if a defendant's conduct is shown to be "outrageous, wanton and willful," said Anderson.

Priest continued on page 7B

Priest Continued from page 1B

Meanwhile, a prosecutor said yesterday that an investigation is continuing into possible criminal charges against the priest, the Rev. Thomas Adamson, 54.

Phillip Prokopowicz, an assistant Dakota County attorney, said his office is awaiting a Minnesota Supreme Court decision in an unrelated case that would decide whether a new seven-year statute of limitations can be applied to the alleged 1982 sexual abuse by Adamson of a boy in Apple Valley.

Anderson said yesterday that because punitive damages are based on a defendant's ability to pay, the Catholic church is potentially liable for millions of dollars in damages from the two lawsuits.

The suits against the Winona Diocese and the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis allege that church officials knew Adamson had been having sexual contact with boys in six Minnesota cities since the early 1960s but neglected to report the incidents to police, remove him permanently from duty, warn parishioners or limit his contact with children.

Instead, he was reassigned four times between 1964 and 1981 to new parishes in southern Minnesota and around the Twin Cities as allegations surfaced. The alleged abuse occurred while Adamson served as a coach, teacher, school administrator and pastor.

Anderson said new depositions have uncovered an increasing number of priests and other church employees who knew of abuse but failed to make sure Adamson was reported to authorities or kept away from children. He was required to get counseling and treatment, but he has admitted in depositions that the treatments didn't work.

At least 15 priests in the Winona Diocese knew in the 1970s of abuse by Adamson, according to Anderson. In addition, he said, an advisory board and vicar general in the Winona Diocese also knew of the abuse and failed to take appropriate action.

The Rev. Gerald A. Mahon, vicar general of the Diocese of Winona, said the diocese will file an official response to the new allegations in a few weeks.

"From a legal standpoint, we prefer not to comment on specifics in the most recent allegations," Mahon said in an statement.

"However, both the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis recognize the serious pastoral problem and we intend to work in close collaboration in continuing to address it — both legally and pastorally," he said. "It is obviously a very painful situation for all parties concerned and the Church of Winona desires to bring about healing and reconciliation in the spirit of Jesus as responsibly and quickly as possible."

Earlier depositions have said Bishop Eoras Walters of the Winona Diocese raised questions in the mid-1970s about Adamson to archdiocese officials, including Archbishop John Roach and Auxiliary Bishop Robert Carlson. But Walters, though he instructed a church psychologist at the time to treat Adamson for sexual problems, apparently was not specific to archdiocese officials about what the problem was.

Roach and Carlson have said they became aware of Adamson's problem only after 1980, after he admitted sexually abusing a boy at a parish in Columbia Heights and one in St. Paul Park.

The church officials have admitted that even after they possessed that knowledge they reassigned Adamson after treatment to a parish in Apple

Valley. One of the suits alleges that during that assignment, at the Church of the Risen Savior, he had sex with an unidentified juvenile parishioner called "John Doe" in court documents.

It is that alleged victim for whom Anderson is seeking punitive damages. The other victim who filed suit, Gregory Reidle, 22, does not have to file a motion to seek punitive damages because the law did not require it when his suit was filed, but did require it when John Doe's suit was filed said Anderson.

Though failure to report sex abuse is a crime, a statute of limitations prevents filing of charges three years after the alleged crime.

The motion to be allowed to claim punitive damages in the John Doe case is scheduled to be heard before Ramsey County Judge Kathleen Gearin on Nov. 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Adamson is still a priest, but on leave and has been living in Winona.

This article contains material from the Associated Press.

Motion added to priest suit

Winona paper

Punitive damages sought against Winona Diocese

By PATRICK McILHERAN
Winona Daily News

An attorney whose client is suing the Roman Catholic Diocese of Winona filed a motion Wednesday to add punitive damages to the suit.

Jeff Anderson, a St. Paul attorney who represents a man and a teen-age boy who claim they were sexually abused by a priest from the Winona Diocese, filed the motion in Ramsey County District Court in St. Paul. The motion is seeking punitive damages in the teen-ager's suit, in addition to the compensatory damages already requested in the original suit filed Feb. 12, 1987.

The teen-ager, who is identified only as "John Doe," claims in the suit that the Rev. Thomas Adamson, 54, had sexual contact with him in 1982 while Adamson was working as a priest at the Church of the Risen Savior in Apple Valley, Minn., a suburb of Minneapolis. The boy would have been 13 at the time.

The other suit, which was filed against the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Dec. 12, 1984, and against the Winona Diocese Aug. 20, 1985, claims that Adamson had sexual contact with Gregory Riedle, an altar boy at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in St. Paul Park, Minn., from 1977 to 1979. Riedle is now 23. Riedle's suit already includes puni-



Rev. Thomas Adamson in 1962

Diocese responds/Page 4

tive and compensatory damages.

Anderson said he's not able to say exactly how much the suits will seek in punitive damages. In civil suits, he said, those seeking punitive damages don't ask for a specific amount. Rather, the award is based on how wealthy those being sued are, so that the award serves as a punishment.

Anderson said that he is currently investigating both the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and he suspects that if punitive damages are granted in the second suit, they

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Adamson

From page 1

could total more than \$3 million.

The motion to add the damages to the "John Doe" suit will be heard by Judge Kathleen Gearin in St. Paul on Nov. 17.

Besides the dioceses, Adamson is named as a defendant in the suits, as are Archbishop John Roach of St. Paul and Minneapolis and retired Bishop Loras Watters of Winona.

Wednesday's motion follows through on action Anderson said he would take when he filed the John Doe suit in the St. Paul court in February. "The motion filed today was not unexpected," according to a statement released Wednesday by the Rev. Gerald Mahon, a spokesman for the Winona Diocese.

Accompanying the motion were about 100 pages of documents setting forth the claims of Anderson's two clients against both Adamson and church officials in the two dioceses. Most of them center around what the suits claim was inaction on the part of church officials over Adamson's alleged sexual problems.

According to the documents, statements taken under oath by Anderson and his associates show that officials of the Winona Diocese knew as early as 1963 that Adamson had sexual conduct with boys in Caledonia, Rochester, and Adrian, Minn. The documents claim that church officials, rather than treat Adamson or let him face the legal consequences of his alleged actions, simply transferred him around the diocese, and eventually sent him to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Diocese issues response

This is the complete text of the statement regarding a lawsuit against the Winona Diocese. It was released Wednesday by the Rev. Gerald A. Mahon, spokesman for the diocese. Here is the text:

According to Rev. Gerald A. Mahon, vicar-general of the Diocese of Winona, the motion filed today was not unexpected. It is a procedural requirement of law when a party is seeking punitive damages.

In accordance with that procedure the Diocese of Winona will, through its attorneys, file an official response in a few weeks.

From a legal standpoint, we prefer not to comment on specifics in the most recent allegations. However, both the Diocese of Winona and Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis recognize the serious pastoral problem and we intend to

work in close collaboration in continuing to address it — both legally and pastorally.

It is obviously a very painful situation for all parties concerned, and the Church of Winona desires to bring about healing and reconciliation in the spirit of Jesus, as responsibly and quickly as possible.

In the face of this very painful process, the Diocese of Winona continues to move in directions that employ the most up to date information and educational policies regarding sexual health issues. The priests recently attended workshops for the purpose of becoming better educated about the problems and this is only the beginning. There have been other educational opportunities made available for the laity, religious and ordained ministers in the Diocese of Winona.

Watters, in a statement on Feb. 4, 1987, denied any wrongdoing in the case. Officials of the archdiocese have made similar statements.

A statement released by Mahon Wednesday, however, notes that "from a legal standpoint, we prefer not to comment on specifics in the most recent allegations."

The statement was released by Mahon, who is the vicar-general of the diocese, because Bishop John G. Vlazny is attending a meeting in Washington.

Watters retired from his post in October, 1986, but remained on as diocese administrator until Vlazny succeeded him in July.

While the diocese has said little about its involvement with Adamson, Mahon's statement noted that the priests of the diocese attended a conference on sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse in June. Mahon, Roach, and others have said in the past that the church's handling of sexual problems has been changing in recent years, and Mahon said Wednesday that the Adamson episode was what sparked the church hierarchy in Winona to lay down a policy on sexual problems among clergy.

"We've all become more educated because of the problem," said Mahon.

Today

**Buffalo County board passes
788 budget, tax levy**

Page 3

Snowstorms cover East

Page 16

ises

dairy farmers in the region of south-
Minnesota east of Interstate 35 and
of Pine Island.

said Land O' Lakes will not operate a
plant at Houston. "The equipment and
of the trucks will be sold. With the
herd buyout, new technology in cheese
ons competitive cost of production is
," and Berg said that could be done
fectively at a central, modern cheese
ch as the one at Pine Island.

ie approximately 80 dairy patrons of
ner co-op creamery, Berg said nearly
ent of the volume is signed up to Land
es. "Caledonia Haulers has been con-
to pick up the milk for us. The milk
to o cheddar cheese and whey plant
Isla. or to Grade A fluid milk mar-
uth," said Berg, who works out of
ills, Minn.

dition to Land O' Lakes. Marks said

See CREAMERY, page 4



Diocese: Adamson not our fault

Church here asks suit be dismissed

ST. PAUL (AP) — The Diocese of
Winona is not responsible for a
Roman Catholic priest's alleged
sexual abuse of a boy in Dakota
County, an attorney for the diocese
says in asking that a lawsuit
against the diocese be dismissed.

Diocese attorney William M. Hull
of Winona also filed countersuit
Tuesday in Ramsey County District
Court against the Church of the
Risen Savior in Burnsville, Minn.,
and the Rev. Thomas Adamson, the
priest who allegedly abused the boy
in 1982.

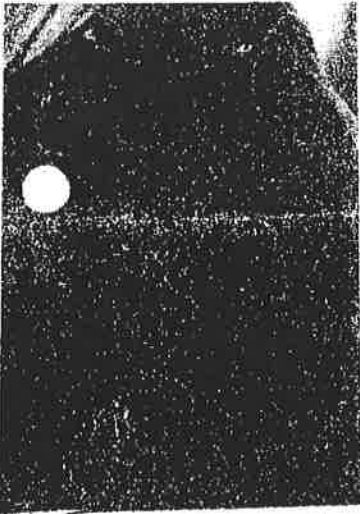
The countersuit alleges that any
harm to the boy resulted from neg-
ligence by the Burnsville church,
the Archdiocese of St. Paul and
Minneapolis, or both.

"To suggest that the Diocese of
Winona acted with an intentional
disregard for the safety of others is
unthinkable," Hull wrote.
"Throughout the years, the diocese
took prompt steps to provide the
best therapy available in the United
States at the time for Father Adam-
son."

Adamson was previously as-
signed to the Winona diocese.

Hull denied allegations that
priests and high officials of the
Winona diocese violated Minneso-
ta's law requiring the reporting of
child abuse. Neither clergy nor em-
ployers were among those required
to report in 1975, the year Adamson
left the diocese, Hull wrote.

The documents were the first de-
tailed replies filed by the diocese in
connection with one of two lawsuits



Daily News photo by Jolene Carlson

ost 1267, Winona Barracks 1082 War 1, and the Disabled Vet-
mony.



In a 1980 opinion, he wrote that a law allowing one house of Congress to veto an executive branch suspension of a deportation order violated the Constitution's separation of powers. The Supreme Court's affirmation of the ruling declared the legislative veto unconstitutional.

against Bork, while Sen. Helms, R-N.C., once had threatened to filibuster against Judge Kennedy as not sufficiently conservative.

Winona diocese violated Minnesota's law requiring the reporting of child abuse. Neither clergy nor employers were among those required to report in 1975, the year Adamson left the diocese, Hull wrote.

The documents were the first detailed replies filed by the diocese in connection with one of two lawsuits alleging sexual abuse by Adamson.

One lawsuit, filed in February, alleges that Adamson engaged in sexual contact with a 13-year-old boy in Dakota County at least once in the fall of 1982. At the time, Adamson was assigned to the Church of the Risen Savior. A hearing on whether the boy can sue for punitive damages is scheduled for Tuesday.

Another lawsuit, filed earlier in February, alleges that Adamson engaged in sexual contact with another boy from the fall of 1977, when the youth was 13, until the spring of 1979. At the time, Adamson was assigned to St. Thomas Aquinas Church in St. Paul Park.

Attorneys representing the two young men said they have found 14 men who allege that they were victims of sexual abuse or attempted abuse by Adamson when they were juveniles. The first abuse allegedly occurred in 1961 or 1962. Adamson has admitted to some of the abuse, including that of the second youth, but has denied any sexual contact with the first youth.

Both lawsuits name the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Winona diocese as defendants. Adamson was assigned to the Winona diocese for several years before he was transferred to the Twin Cities area in 1975.

The lawsuits allege that the archdiocese and diocese knew of the alleged abuse and failed to take appropriate action. Instead, the complaints allege church authorities continued to assign Adamson to parish work, where he would have contact with boys. This alleged negligence led to the abuse of the two boys, according to the complaints.

In a general reply to the first lawsuit, Hull said Adamson was not under the supervision of the Winona diocese from 1975 to 1985, when the alleged abuse of the two boys occurred.

The document cited two letters written by then-Bishop Loras Wat-

See ADAMSON, page 4

life for trapped boy

t of the house for air, so Gordon on ident who had been helped in the barn, went into the

ne Waletzki got to the trailer firefighters, Miller, of 905 E. 5th ing out of the trailer gasping for ki said, adding that Miller

but Adam cried all the way to Winona, Waletzki said.

He said Alan Jr. was unconscious during the trip and was breathing only about five times a minute.

After being admitted to St. Paul-Ramsey, both boys were put on respirators and were listed in critical condition. Adam with second-degree burns over 13.5 percent of his

Funeral arrangements

Louise C. Dean — Service at 9:30 a.m. today in Watkowski Funeral Home and 10 a.m. in St. Casimir's Church. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

HARMONY, Minn. — Theodore Morem — Visitation from 10 a.m. today until 11 a.m. service in Greenfield Lutheran Church. Burial in Greenfield Cemetery. (Abraham-Lindstrom Funeral Home)

DURAND, Wis. — John A. Mayer — Visitation from 10 a.m. today until 11 a.m. service in Faith Lutheran Church. Burial in Rock Creek Cemetery, Rock Falls. (Goodrich Funeral Home)

LANESBORO, Minn. — Irene T. Halvorson — Visitation from 12:30 p.m. Friday until 1:30 p.m. service in North Prairie Lutheran Church.

Area deaths

Adella Horn

LEWISTON, Minn. — Adella Horn, 81, of Lewiston, died Wednesday (Nov. 11, 1987) at Olmsted Community Hospital, Rochester, Minn.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Hoff Funeral Home of Lewis-

Burial in church cemetery. (Johnson-Riley Funeral Home)

DRESBACH, Minn. — Lois E. Dearman — Service at 2 p.m. today in Schumacher-Kish Funeral home, La Crescent. Burial in Dresbach Cemetery.

LA CRESCENT, Minn. — Elsie Krumrie — Visitation from 10 a.m. today until 11 a.m. service in South Ridge United Methodist Church. Burial in Hillcrest Cemetery. (Schumacher-Kish Funeral Home)

Obituary notices

Full obituaries will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 4:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Short death notices will be accepted until 11 p.m.

Police

Theft

WINONA
Tuesday

An employee of Domino's Pizza, 905 W. 5th St., reported the theft of four pizzas and three pizza delivery bags from a delivery vehicle parked near Prentiss-Lucas Hall,

Adamson

From page 1

ters of the Winona diocese to Archbishop John Roach in the Twin Cities in 1975 and 1976. Both refer to treatment by an archdiocesan employee, an indication that Watters informed Roach about Adamson's problems.

In the counterclaim, Hull said the pastor and the church administrator at Risen Savior were aware that Adamson should have no contact with youth groups. The church was negligent in its supervision of Adamson, he said.

If the first boy was abused, the document continued, this was the result of negligence by Adamson, the church, and or the archdiocese.

If monetary damages against the Winona diocese should be granted in the case, Risen Savior church and Adamson should pay them, the document said.

WJHS hosts program for teens' parents

"So Now I'm the Parent of An Adolescent—Help!", a program to answer questions for new parents of adolescents, will be held 7:30 p.m. Monday in the Winona Junior High

Creamery to Houston

By BETTY RUSSELL BERTRA
Winona Daily News

HOUSTON, Minn. — On the face, only seven of Houston's best paying jobs will evaporate with closure of Houston-Money Creek Co-op's creamery division this month, according to Ron Evenson, chairman of the Houston Downtown Development Commission and a dentist.

But in a rural town of 1,057, loss of seven jobs out of about 200 is a serious blow.

"It's hard to judge the total impact. If some of these people had to move away to find another job that impacts what's bought in town. If they have children in the school and they're taken out, that reduces the student aid to the schools. I say it would be quite an impact that it will affect everybody," Evenson, who characterized creamery jobs as "good paying jobs in the upper 50 percent of the community."

Co-op members voted 20-2 in favor of closing the cheddar processing plant, a cornerstone of the community for approximately

"DON'T TELL ANYBODY...
...YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE, AND SO WILL I"



It was a long time between confessions for altar boy Gregory John Riedle. It was longer still before the self-described loner from St. Paul Park confessed to his parents the details of his relationship with Father Thomas Paul Adamson. The youth's admission that the priest had encouraged him in a sexual relationship gave rise to a lawsuit that ultimately changed the way the archdiocese operates in regard to allegations of sexual abuse. In a three-part series that begins today on page 1E, writer Bob Ehlert traces what began as a secret from the altar to the church basement to the home of the boy's angry family through the discreet corridors of church hierarchy.

"DON'T TELL ANYBODY... ...YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE, AND SO WILL I"

By Bob Ehlert/Staff Writer

"Bless me, Father, for I have sinned." Young Gregory John Riedle whispered those words through the fabric divider in the confessional at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in St. Paul Park.

"It has been a long time since my last confession," said Greg, who was 14, then, in 1978. "I swore at my little brother, at my mom and dad. I am sorry for these and all of my sins."

But there was one sin, at least he thought it might be a sin, that he was told never to confess to anyone. Under any circumstances.

Not even to a priest.

So, time after time, Greg did not tell.

He listened to the priest's response. He made a mental note of his penance—a couple of Hail Marys and Our Fathers—and he received the priest's absolution and blessing.

Sometimes, just before he left, he heard the priest say, "And have a good day," Greg.

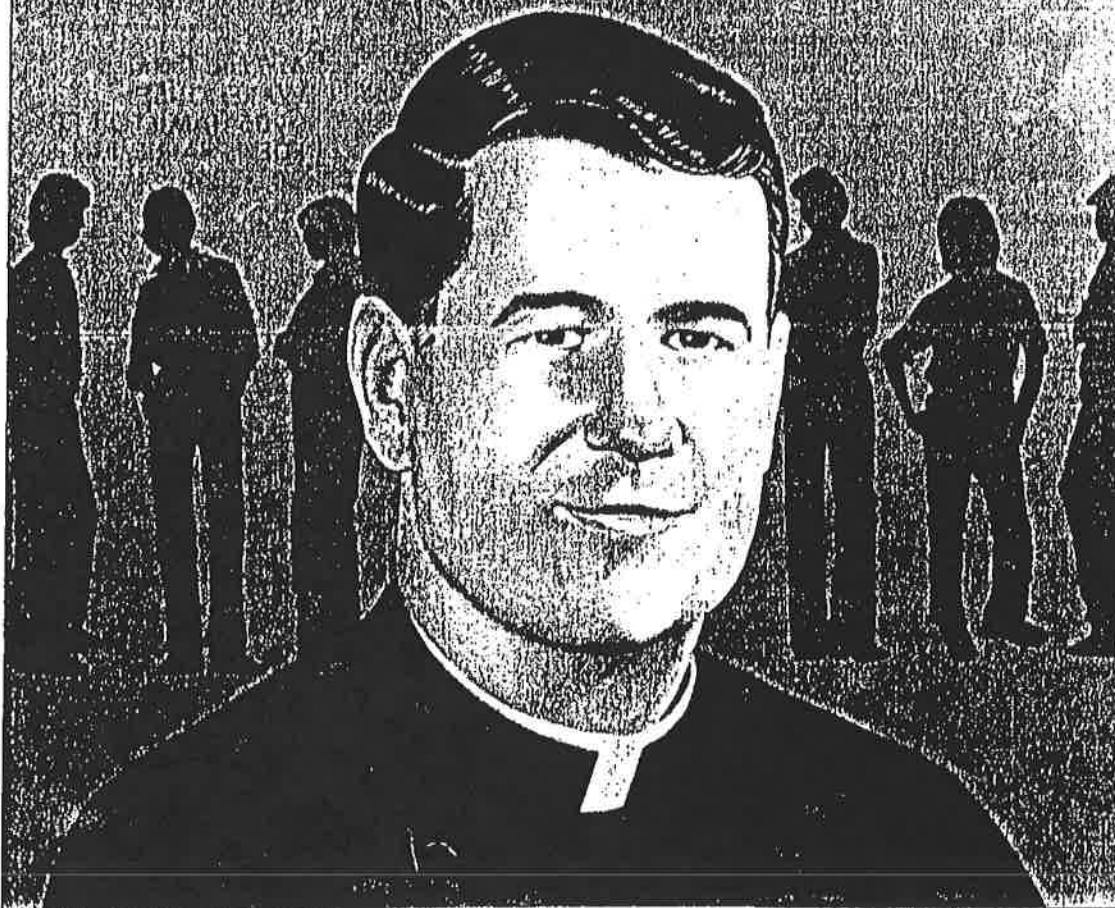
Sure enough, that would mean it was Father Tom. Father Thomas Paul Adamson.

It was Father Tom who taught Greg the sin that he was not to mention—if it even was a sin.

So through those years, 1977 to 1979, whenever he would go to confession, "even to Father Tom Adamson, that would never come up." "Never," said Greg.

The psychological demands of the secret sin began to pile up in Greg's conscience.

ADAMSON Continued on page 4E



"DON'T TELL ANYBODY...



...YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE, AND SO WILL I"

Continued from page 4E

a Father Kenneth Pierre, a priest and psychologist who used to run the Consultation Services Center — an agency of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Part of Pierre's job was to provide psychological counseling for people in the ministry and, occasionally, parishioners.

In the midst of several unsuccessful attempts to contact Pierre, Janet Riedle got a call from a vocational rehabilitation counselor at Greg's prison. Greg had opened up to the counselor, Paul Ringsmuth, and told him about the sexual abuse he had suffered at the hands of Father Tom.

Ringsmuth began to look into the matter. He knew Greg had victimized others with sexual abuse, but nowhere in his records had it been mentioned that Greg himself had been a victim.

"Something isn't right. Let me see what I can do," Ringsmuth told Janet, she said.

Pierre finally returned Janet Riedle's call. She said he took notes of the charges she made concerning Father Tom and recommended that she call the archdiocese and ask to talk to Bishop Robert Carlson.

Carlson was a high-level administrator in the archdiocese and a confidant of Archbishop John Roach, the most powerful cleric in the archdiocese.

"I thought that was kind of awkward because that's kind of intimidating," Janet said. "Call the bishop? I'm not about to do that. How in the heck do I, as a parishioner, call the bishop and say, 'OK, bishop, and there's this priest, and I have

this son, and . . . 'I honestly, even though I believed Greg, I didn't think the bishop would believe us.'"

Paul Ringsmuth was not intimidated. After first seeking advice from a priest in the St. Cloud Diocese, he did what Janet Riedle wouldn't do and got in touch with several clergy in the archdiocese. Among them were Father Pierre and Bishop Carlson.

Ringsmuth, at the request of Janet Riedle, asked archdiocese officials what exactly was known about Father Tom. If he had been in treatment. Just what was going on.

In a letter to Ringsmuth, Pierre wrote:

"My last contact with Father Adamson before Mrs. Riedle called was in February of 1981. . . . The treatment centered on his sexual behavior and was motivated by his own concern to deal with his problem and by the pressure he was receiving from church authorities to do so.

"Since February 1981 Father Adamson has seen Dr. Joseph Gendron, a Minneapolis psychiatrist and consultant to us here at the Consultation Services Center. Father Adamson has seen him on a quarterly basis for maintenance and preventative therapy. To my knowledge, Father Adamson has been able to manage his problem with the assistance of Dr. Gendron since terminating his therapy with me early in 1981. . . ."

Janet Riedle went from being troubled to angry. Greg had told her of the time in 1982 at the shopping mall when he claimed Father Tom tried to fondle him for the last time. The priest denies the incident.

Ringsmuth asked her if she was satisfied that Father Tom was seeking treatment. And she said, "Well,



Archbishop John Roach, above, praised Father Tom Adamson for his administrative skills in 1978, early in his stay in the Twin Cities. By 1985 he had asked for Adamson's removal.

no, because what you've said now is that Father Adamson was having contact with Greg at the same time he was in a treatment program. What does that say, except that he goes for treatment and still has contact?"

Eventually Bishop Carlson called Janet Riedle. Then Carlson contacted Father Tom and asked him to meet with the Riedles. Carlson also planned to meet with Greg's parents at the archdiocese chancery in St. Paul. A date was set.

But before the Riedles' meeting at the archdiocese, they had their talk with Father Tom. Janet Riedle chose a Perkins Restaurant on County Rd. E north of St. Paul for the meeting.

"It was just John and I and Father

Adamson," she said.

Janet cannot remember what she ate or who paid the bill. But she does recall that, throughout the meeting, Father Tom "never admitted to us face to face that he had ever done anything to Greg."

Leaving the restaurant, Father Tom hugged Janet Riedle, and she says he whispered softly:

"Just you remember that I'm not a wealthy person."

"And at that point in time I decided to hell with you," she said.

When Father Tom hugged her, she said, "It made me sick. And when he said what he said, it made me angry. So from that point on I just decided that this man was not inter-

ested in Greg. That he was only interested in not getting hurt himself."

But then Janet thought of Father Tom's mother, a woman she had never met, but a woman she somehow knew.

"And I knew his mother was older, an older person, and I knew, I thought of his mother because I knew how all this was going to hurt."

Janet Riedle cried again when the hurt came to mind. She wanted to keep talking, but words failed her.

"I didn't think it would be this hard," she said.

Monday: The Riedles and their attorney learn about Father Tom Adamson's past.

**"DON'T TELL ANYBODY...
...YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE, AND SO WILL I!"**



Second of three parts.

By Bob Ehler/Staff Writer

Locked up inside the stone-walled fortress of the St. Cloud Reformatory, Gregory John Riedle was more naive than frightened.

"I thought this is kind of neat. Like the movies," Greg said.

It was the summer of 1984 and he had begun serving his 21-month sentence as a result of his sexual abuse of a little girl and a burglary. He knew better than to broadcast all the reasons he was in "The Cloud," so whenever anybody asked, he played up the burglary.

What he didn't know is that there is a funny kind of communication inside prisons, and dark secrets don't live long.

"I was never scared until the first time I got pushed around," Greg said. "Somebody shoved me in the hall and they said, 'You baby rapper!'"

"I said, damn, my cover's blown."

Indeed, he was right. Before the end of the summer a fellow inmate would ambush Greg in the shower, punch him in the face and break his jaw.

Outside the prison walls a Roman Catholic priest named Father Thomas Paul Adamson faced no physical dangers, but his career and reputation were now under siege. His superiors in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis had learned that, seven years earlier, he had begun sexually abusing Greg Riedle — a 13-year-old altar boy back in 1977.

In late June 1984 Father Tom came to visit Greg at St. Cloud. The 51-year-old priest and the 20-year-old inmate had a lot to talk about. "He wanted me to come see him, and talk to him, and give him support," Father Tom testified in his depositions.

Greg remembers it differently. To him the priest's visit was the same old theme.

"Don't tell anybody. You'll get in trouble, and so will I." That's what he said in a roundabout way. His eyes were going everywhere, left and right. There was hardly any eye contact. He was scared.

Greg had begun to think about lawsuits and compensation for the damage done to him.

ADAMSON Continued on page 4E

"DON'T TELL ANYBODY... YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE, AND SO WILL



ADAMSON: Mother felt clergy failed to understand

Continued from page 1E

But he did not know what to do, where to turn.

In July 1984 his mother, Janet Riedle, went to visit with Archbishop John Roach's closest advisers, Bishop Robert Carlson, to talk about Father Tom and what he had done to her son.

At that meeting Bishop Carlson and the Rev. Ken McDonough — both representing the archdiocese — asked most of the questions and offered little in the way of information, Janet said.

The Riedles brought up the medical bills they had accumulated as a result of Greg's counseling over the years.

Calling the police was mentioned, but no one took any action. And the meeting ended on sort of a pessimistic note.

"De glad you still have your son," was the way McDonough put it, according to Janet Riedle.

The comment particularly bothered Janet and made her wonder if these men dressed in black and white could really father who she had been through. She believed she had lost her son.

"I mean Greg was running [away]. We didn't have Greg," she said.

"And Greg never had a life. Greg was never a happy teen-ager. Greg never had the opportunity — I would say probably from age 14 on — to do the things in the manner that healthy-minded kids can do things."

At that July 5 meeting, Carlson asked Janet (to complete a list of medical expenses and arrive at a total. He offered to visit Greg in prison and to be of any help that he could.

After Carlson and McDonough met with the Riedles, they spoke with Father Tom. On July 10, 1984, Carlson mentioned the meeting in a memo to Archbishop John Roach, who heads the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

In the memo, Carlson said that Father Tom had admitted his abuse of Greg and agreed with Carlson's assessment that the incident could be categorized as "first-degree criminal conduct." The priest was advised that the crime might be reported to authorities in Washington County, although a "great deal will depend on the discretion of the archdiocese and the state attorney."

Carlson told Roach that he had instructed Father Tom to see Joseph Gendron, a Minneapolis psychiatrist who had treated Adamson. Carlson also directed Father Tom to obtain a criminal attorney at his own expense.

"Furthermore, I told Father Adamson that I did not believe in them after I visited with the archbishop and Bishop Walters (of the Diocese of Winona, an auxiliary of the archdiocese). On Friday July 13 I called Bishop Walters to inform him of the possible legal exposure...."

In the same memo it was disclosed that Father Tom didn't get along with the priest who then supervised him in Burnsville and that there was an archdiocese file on Father Tom that contained information about his alleged sexual involvement with another boy in 1982 — an involvement Father Tom denies.

Fearing scandal, Carlson addressed the church's image in a recommendation to Roach that accompanied the July 5 memo:

"It is my recommendation, given the seriousness of our exposure, that the archdiocese posture itself in such a way that any publicity will be minimized. I was convinced that in cooperation with Bishop Walters, that Father Adamson be sent to the Parishes in the Diocese of Winona or to the House of Affirmation (treatment centers). It is obvious to me in dealing with Father Adamson at this time that he has little remorse other than the fact that we found something else out and completely muzzles the entire situation."

"At one point in his treatment, Dr. Gendron told me that Father Adamson will have to choose between his sexual problem and the priesthood.... I have never been convinced that Father Adamson has come to grips with his priestly responsibility."

Later in July 1984, Bishop Carlson visited Greg in prison, he said, as



Greg Riedle in 1982 at age 18.

part of his pastoral responsibility to the youth.

Earlier Greg had sent a letter to Carlson making some financial demands, such things as a car and a college education.

Greg was reluctant to discuss the details of the abuse with Carlson during his visit, but he did talk, however, and according to Carlson, Greg said, "Do you have an attorney? Because I have some demands."

Once again there was a discussion of the car and education. Then, according to Greg's deposition, Carlson asked how he was doing mentally and spiritually. He also made a request: "He tried to talk me out of getting involved with courts and things, which is the same thing Father Adamson tried to do."

Carlson denies making any such request.

By August 1984 the archdiocese had begun consulting with one of its attorneys, Andrew Eisenmenger. He supplied a legal opinion about the case to Carlson. A copy of the legal opinion was given to Bishop Walters, who at the time headed the Diocese of Winona.

Technically, Father Tom was still a priest of the Winona Diocese, which is a separate corporate entity from the archdiocese. Father Tom was serving in the archdiocese in the capacity of an "alien priest" — one who is ordained in one diocese but who ministers in another.

The archdiocese and the Diocese of Winona were in the same boat, in one sense, because Father Tom had lied to both. Eisenmenger, 32, was the archdiocese — where Father Tom had been serving since 1975 — that had the past-year appointments to the parish where the abuse took place. The legal strategy was cautious, to say the least.

"We were wary of entering into any kind of negotiations with him (Greg) where we give him what he wants and he in turn releases us from any liability, because during that time there were a number of court decisions where the liability and legal effect of releases were being challenged," said Eisenmenger. "And we didn't feel that it would be appropriate legally to try to enter into a final negotiation with him while he was in prison. That's why the suggestion was made that he might want to consult with an attorney. Once he got out of prison, we could then deal with it as a much better situation."

Financial issues kept coming up anyway. At the time of the deposition, Father Tom had given the archdiocese a check for \$1,500. Carlson's response was that the Riedles had been paying for Greg.

"She (Janet) had asked for some help with some expenses that they had had. And once Father Adamson had admitted doing it, I suggested that he help out," Carlson said.

When the Riedles received the check they were afraid to cash it, fearful that according to their rule out any future compensation due them. They consulted a lawyer friend who, after reviewing the case, referred them to Jeffrey Anderson, a partner in the Rainwater & Anderson law firm in St. Paul.



St. Cloud Photos by Joey McLeister. Last summer Greg remained at St. Cloud Reformatory. In the summer of 1984 he spent several months there as a result of a burglary and his sexual abuse of a little girl.



Father Thomas Adamson was living in Eau Claire, Wis., this summer. He has said that his superior has asked him to remain from publicly exercising his priestly function, although he still received some financial support from the Winona Diocese.

The Riedles showed Anderson the \$1,500 check from Father Tom. Anderson advised them to "cash it, have me, and I will look into it." They did.

By the time Anderson had begun to represent the Riedle family Greg had been transferred out of St. Cloud and into a program specifically designed for sex offenders at a prison facility in Lino Lakes.

The bash and condemn Anderson became an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on for the Riedles. The client-attorney relationship, in fact, began to replace priest/pastor roles that Janet Riedle had relied on through the years.

Especially after December 1984.

That is when Anderson brought a lawsuit in behalf of Greg Riedle and his parents. The suit stated that the archdiocese and St. Thomas Aquinas church were negligent in their placement of Adamson, whom the Riedles alleged had "rape already inflicted intentional, unpermitted, harmful and offensive sexual contact" upon Greg.

What has had remained between Janet and her church were severed by the suit.

"I think we are a very litigious society, and I think the lawsuit certainly made it a very difficult situation," said Carlson, who said he was grateful because the legal matters hindered his ability to pastor to the Riedles.

After the suit was filed, Anderson proceeded to obtain volumes of information through the legal discovery process.

There were no criminal charges being sought against Father Tom in the case because Washington County authorities had determined that the statute of limitations had expired on his abuse of Greg.

Ground rules for civil lawsuits allow both parties to take depositions — sworn statements — in order to discover information, names, dates, documents and testimony germane to proving their case in court. Court reporters hired by the parties reviewed the testimony, and copies are made available to all sides in the suit.

During the discovery phase of the Riedle action, Anderson, who had very little background in the Roman Catholic Church or the tenets of its canon law, slowly began to piece together a theory that Father Tom had begun sexually abusing teenage boys soon after the priest's ordination in 1958.

"We had reason to believe that the archdiocese knew about this guy, and that it had happened before," Anderson said. "We didn't know about Winona yet. Then we started to do discovery and investigation and learned that he was a priest in the Diocese of Winona, and the history went back. And then we brought in the Diocese of Winona (as a defendant in the lawsuit) in August of 1985."

Those witnesses who have been subpoenaed to a deposition are required to answer questions unless their attorney advises them not to. In the beginning of the Riedle lawsuit it had been agreed that the matter would not be made public.

"We wanted to find out what was involved," Anderson said. "They didn't want to make this thing public. Because of that we were able to obtain some materials, do some discovery. But otherwise we might not have been able to do it."

Archbishop Roach, Bishop Loras Walters of Winona, Bishop Robert Carlson and many other priests and nuns were asked about Father Tom. One by one they were questioned about what they knew, when they knew it and how they dealt with allegations about Father Tom's sexual misconduct when, and if, he became aware of them.

As the information grew in Anderson's office on the 10th floor of the Meritor Tower in St. Paul, the attorney became convinced that there was a pattern of abuse by Father Tom and a cover-up by his superiors that spanned the three decades of the priest's career.

Anderson's staff had begun uncovering more and more instances on the priest's sexual involvement with female nuns — most often in recreational settings, most often as a result of the priest's position of authority or influence.

If people within the church knew, they had never contacted the police

to make them aware of Father Tom's sexual misconduct. Yet almost wherever Father Tom went in his career, Anderson believed, he had left behind a trail of broken boys and bewildered parents.

Some of those who tried to understand Father Tom's "special problems," as he once called them, made efforts to get him into treatment, or to remove him from the geographical area of his temptation. But those who knew made little, if any effort to do the same for his victims, or to alert others to the hazards of placing their sons to associate with Father Tom.

In 1985 Anderson and Mark Wendorf, his assistant, had enough information to construct something like a sexual-abuse resume of Father Tom.

According to Anderson's tally in the Diocese of Winona, Father Tom allegedly had been involved with nine boys while serving in parish assignments there. Anderson bases that total on signed affidavits from alleged victims he has contacted and the admissions of abuse in Father Tom's testimony.

The abuse alleged is said to have occurred at Father Tom's assignments at a parish in southwest Minnesota; Rochester Lourdes High School; St. John's Church in Garden, Minn., and on occasions while assigned to St. Francis Church, St. John's School in Rochester, Minn.

Father Tom does not admit to all of the allegations.

Anderson estimates that as many as 20 dozen priests, nuns, deacons and parish workers eventually learned of Father Tom's sexual problems. He said that at least 18 priests in the Winona Diocese knew in the 1970s of abuse by Adamson.

Some have made known the extent of their knowledge in depositions. But how much the various priests knew for a fact, rather than just through hearsay, is unclear.

Of the two bishops Father Tom served under in the Diocese of Winona, Bishop Edward A. Fitzgerald (1958 to 1965) in deposed testimony in deposition indicates he had knowledge of Father Tom's problems, and Bishop Walters

(1969 to 1974) claims no knowledge of an unsuspected man that accused Father T.

"The only thing I had," was a deposition, "was suggestions from people who were willing to sign statements along with me in front of Adamson...."

No one knows as when Father Tom abusing youths, suppose that one of the in-son boys would become a

Father Tom, like many of abusers, was himself a victim.

Thomas Paul Adamson was 1933. He grew up on a farm in Byron, Minn., where his 1 and sisters were close to each other and their parents was the oldest of the son.

In a staunch Catholic family, and in that time, it was surprise that one of the in-son boys would become a

"We always played check Tom was always the priest a sibling, who asked to be killed by what was the priest family. We had marshes the hosts."

The parents, Paul (now 61) and Mildred Adamson, were thinking of moving a Sunday church. There were many when the family would be up on a sleigh in deep snow.

As a teen-ager, Tom had been befriended by a hired hand another farm. The 60-year-old sexually seduced the 15-year-old Adamson, according to his medical records which are in the depositions.

"The relationship continued until the man moved away and no one indicates.

No one, not even the priest perhaps, could judge how badly would a life of his like like many sexual-abuse victims and the Greg Riedle, Tom son hid the abuse.

Young Adamson was one boy who, upon graduating Lourdes High School in 1954, decided to become a priest. He entered Holy Cross in May, a secretary in Winon

There, Father Tom stung the priesthood and color

"I was thinking about marriage was doing a girl had married shortly after I entered seminary, so that was a bit of a surprise. He often questioned his ability to go ahead and had people. I thought at all, but it was a big problem for me a long time a lot of pain."

After seminary Father Tom earned his spiritual education at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. There he was class captain of the basketball

Not long after ordination a home parish in Rochester, Father Tom, according to Winona, began angling in relationships with two other — one a priest and one a nun. According to his deposition he saw each man once a year.

In 1961, while serving as a tent principal, teacher and ball coach at a school in Burnsville, Minn., Father Tom an eighth-grade boy into a relationship that was carried more than 10 years — although victim entered the priest

As Father Tom's career progressed from assignment to assignment in the Diocese of Winona, his misconduct began to be known to his superiors — and his provoked resignation.

In 1964 Father Tom was assigned to Winona's Bishop also to control his sexual behavior according to a psychiatric Adamson taken in Harton

After another alleged case with a boy in 1967, Father Tom was sent to Rochester to counsel Rochester psychiatrist, Dr. Tyrce, who was a member Tom's congregation. After sessions over three months a psychiatric report was transferred to another part of the doc

In 1969 Bishop Loras West summed leadership of the Diocese of Winona — a job that included with Father Tom's trou

Walters, in his sworn statement has maintained that the new Father Tom's specifications were until the Greg Fitzgerald was brought to his in 1964. But Father Tom's Adamson continued on p

"DON'T TELL ANYBODY..."



...YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE, AND SO WILL I"

Continued from page 4E

deposition, said Watters confronted him in 1973 after the bishop was told a rumor about sexual misconduct involving the priest and a Rochester youth.

"I think I told him that there was a basis for it (the rumors) and that I accepted the responsibility for the wrongness of it, whatever," Father Tom said, referring to a meeting with his bishop.

Watters had driven to Rochester, unannounced, to confront the priest, Father Tom said. "Watters said that I should do something, some kind of counseling, and that he would consult with others as to what I should do."

At a later meeting in 1973, it was agreed that Father Tom would again begin seeing Tyce, who at the time worked with the Rochester State Hospital. After Father Tom allegedly was involved in yet another sexual-abuse incident with a boy in the spring of 1974, Tyce recommended that the priest seek therapy in Hartford at the Institute of Living.

Father Tom reluctantly agreed. Just before leaving in June 1974 for his two-month stay at Hartford, he began seeing Father Kenneth Pierre, a priest and psychologist who headed the Consultation Services Center, an agency of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Throughout his stay at the Institute of Living in Hartford in the summer of 1974, Father Tom corresponded with Bishop Watters, Father Pierre and others.

In a June 27, 1974, letter to Watters from inside the institution, Father Tom remarked that "the spiritual void remains. . . . The tight security or lack of freedom wears on me. . . . The persons I live with remain a problem. . . ."

"I know there can never be a recurrence of the problem I had this spring. I don't want to be in a place like this again — never! I also am keenly aware of the possibility of automatic suspension if there is a recurrence and that says a lot to me. . . ."

Father Tom had been quite humbled by his experience in Hartford. During visits home to Minnesota he confided in a number of his close priest friends about his psychosex-

ual problems, but never were unsuspecting parishioners informed.

"Tom told relatives he was going away to school whenever he went away for treatment," said one of Father Tom's siblings. "One sister said once that if someone said to her that Tom walked on water she could believe that rather than this."

After repeated pleas to be discharged from the Hartford facility, Father Tom got his wish in August 1974. Having been admitted with what his attending psychiatrist, Dr. John Curran, termed a "homosexual" problem, Father Tom was released with a status that Curran said was "slightly improved."

Curran recommended to Bishop Watters that Father Tom continue to seek therapy on an outpatient basis.

After returning to his parsonage in Rochester in August 1974, Father Tom began seeing Father Pierre, the psychologist in the Twin Cities.

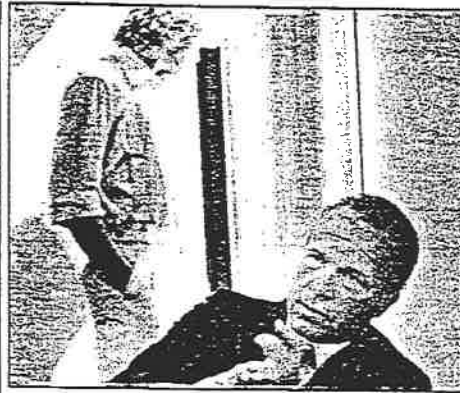
"The experience in the East was painful in that it took so long and it was so regimented," Pierre wrote in his notes of Aug. 22, 1974. " . . . It looks like he will maintain his parish and that the Hartford experience was some kind of trade-off on this."

Following subsequent visits with Father Tom in September, October and November 1974, Pierre concluded that the priest "continues to do well."

Although December 1974 began with great promise for Father Tom — he was back in his Rochester parish and progressing in therapy — one of his first sexual indiscretions came back to haunt him.

One of Father Tom's abuse victims in southwest Minnesota had later been ordained into the priesthood. While serving in his first assignment in the Diocese of Winona, the young priest — who has since left the country and his religious calling — wound up in a chemical-abuse treatment center in Rochester.

There, according to one of his brothers, in December 1974 the priest confessed to therapists that in 1961, Father Tom had sexually abused the then eighth-grade boy. According to Father Tom's depositions, that sexual relationship did



Greg Riedle stood behind Jeffrey Anderson, the Riedles' attorney since 1984, who quickly became a shoulder for the family to lean on.

not end until 1973 — at which time the youth was a grown man ordained into the priesthood.

Greg Riedle's attorney, Anderson, had learned about Father Tom and that youth in 1986 while investigating the priest's past. During that quest Anderson came upon a brother of the ex-priest who had been abused as a boy.

The brother was deposed with the condition that his testimony be sealed from the public record. The same man would later agree to an interview for this story on the condition that no one in his family was identified. For that reason the man will be referred to as Dave, and the ex-priest as George.

In 1974 Dave was a teacher in the school Father Tom supervised in Rochester. When he found out about his brother and Father Tom he was so angry he wanted to harm Adamson physically.

A fellow teacher, Sister Tierney Trueman, recalled in her deposition that Dave came to the junior high school where they taught on a Saturday in late 1974.

"He was very angry, very angry. And he literally said to me, 'I am

going to kill him.' And he was talking about Father Adamson," Trueman testified.

After she found out why he was so angry — Dave explained about how Father Tom had sexually abused George — she promised to drive to Winona the following day and inform Bishop Watters about the accusations. And she did.

"I'm here only because Dave is saying if that man (Father Tom) is not out of the parish within a week he'll be a dead man," she told the bishop.

According to her testimony, the bishop then said that Father Tom was one of his "finest men" and had received some of the finest treatment that could be given. But he added that Father Tom was unable to control himself.

Sister Trueman recalled that the bishop was "neither upset, neither angry, neither surprised" at the news, although he seemed "pained."

Later that week, Dave himself called Bishop Watters and gave him an ultimatum: Either remove Father Tom before Sunday or all of the family members were going to

drive to Rochester, walk up to the podium during Father Tom's sermon and make public their knowledge of his abuse.

On the eve of that Sunday in late 1974, Father Tom resigned his duties at St. Francis parish in Rochester. He told parishioners he was going to the Twin Cities to pursue his education at the University of Minnesota.

Father Tom did go to the Twin Cities and enroll in classes at the University of Minnesota. Arrangements were made with the archdiocese to allow Father Tom to room and minister at a parish in St. Paul. Father Tom hoped the move to the archdiocese, beginning in January 1975, would be short-lived. But it would be 10 years before the priest would return to his home diocese.

The depositions make it clear that Bishop John Roach, who was soon to become the archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, knew Adamson was coming, that Watters had told Roach that Father Tom was "a victim of a situation in Winona," and that because of that situation, Father Tom was seeing Father Pierre — whom Roach knew to be a priest and psychologist.

But just what had Watters told Roach, or not told him about Father Tom?

Neither Roach nor Watters would agree to be interviewed for this story. However, in one of the archdiocese's summation papers related to lawsuits filed in Ramsey County District Court, it states that in 1976, "Archbishop Roach understood that allegations of homosexual conduct had been made against Adamson. He absolutely did not receive any indication that the homosexual nature of the conduct had to do with youth."

When questioned in his deposition, Father Tom said he assumed Roach knew something about his sexual molestation of youths.

Father Tom made that assumption because he had resigned from "one of the top parishes in the Diocese of Winona . . . and it just seems, for the bright man that he (Roach) is, he would be saying, 'Why?'" Father Tom testified. "I just felt that he had to have some awareness that there were some

problems, but he never discussed that with me at any time."

The troubled priest arrived in the Twin Cities and began attending the University of Minnesota, as planned. But there were no restrictions put on him, and the half-million Roman Catholics in the archdiocese had no inkling of the abuse incidents.

For the next year, until February 1975, Father Tom continued to see the priest psychologist, Pierre, regularly — and he regularly contacted his bishop about returning to the Winona Diocese.

Time after time, Watters denied that request — even on the occasion when he received a letter from Pierre that endorsed it.

On that occasion, Bishop Watters wrote: "While I do not question your evaluation regarding the priest psychologist, Pierre, I must also add that I am convinced that he doesn't even begin to appreciate the numbers of people in at least five different communities across the entire diocese who have finally pieced together incidents occurring over a fifteen year span and who now openly raise questions about the credibility of all priests. Obviously I am writing to you in confidence. You would only have to struggle through the painful sessions I've had with heart-broken and bewildered parents who only (now) have come to discover the source of some of the problems of their sons."

It should be pointed out that, in his first deposition in 1986, Watters denied specific knowledge of Father Tom's sexual abuse of boys during that period and that, in reference to "painful sessions I've had with heart-broken and bewildered parents," he explained that the comment was made regarding an incident some 30 years earlier when Watters was a principal of a high school in Dubuque, Iowa.

In 1976 Father Tom stopped seeing Father Pierre. In June of that year, he was named associate pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas in St. Paul Park.

A year later, Greg Riedle became one of Father Tom's altar boys.

Tuesday: The allegations of other victims; the Riedle suit is settled out of court.

**"DON'T TELL ANYBODY...
...YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE, AND SO WILL I"**



Secrets finally become matter of public record

Last of three parts.

By Bob Ehler/Staff Writer

The call came in to the Mendota Heights police station at 7 p.m. on Aug. 21, 1977.

A patrolman in neighboring Inver Grove Heights was relaying information from the parents of a 16-year-old boy who had just reported a sexual-abuse incident. He had been picked up hitchhiking in St. Paul Park that day and was later allegedly assaulted by the driver. The suspect was white and about 45. He wore golf clothes, had a beer belly and drove a Plymouth, according to the police reports.

His name was Tom.

Tom had picked up Mike hitchhiking at 2:30 p.m. After exchanging pleasantries and names, Tom said he was going golfing later,

and asked if the boy wanted to caddy.

Mike (whose real name is withheld because he was a juvenile) said he would. The two made arrangements to rendezvous at a gas station later that afternoon near the boy's home in Inver Grove Heights.

They shot a round of golf, and, as agreed, Mike pulled the cart around.

After golfing, Tom suggested that the two go get a Coke and a sandwich. Then Tom drove to the Mendakota Country Club down the road and invited Mike into the locker room.

"We sat in there for a couple of minutes, and then we went out to the shower, then we went back in the sauna," Mike said, according to a statement he later gave the Mendota Heights police. "We were sitting . . . and he tried grab-

bing my penis. I tried shoving his hand away and stuff, and he's sitting there saying I'm shy and all this, and then he kept trying to do it."

On the way out, Mike said Tom lunged at him again, this time grabbing him around the middle and reaching for his genitals.

After the two had dressed, Tom bought Mike a can of pop and then took him back to the gas station.

Mike told his mother about the incident, and she called the police, who asked Mike to call them if he heard from Tom again.

Three days later, Tom called, according to police reports. Mike and Tom arranged another golf outing for 4:30 p.m.,

ADAMSON Continued on page 4E

"DON'T TELL ANYBODY..."



...YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE, AND SO WILL I!"

Continued from page 4E

"The claim for punitive damages, we believe, is going to be a lot more substantial than for compensatory damages," Anderson said. "They know there's a cap on compensatory damages in Minnesota of \$400,000. They see their exposure in compensatory damages as no more than that."

To prepare for a possible punitive-damages award, Anderson and colleagues have begun trying to gather information to help them measure the assets of the various church entities, Anderson believes that means he should go beyond the region — even to Rome, if necessary — to gauge the Catholic Church's ability to pay.

Andrew Eisanzimmer, an attorney representing the archdiocese in the suit, said he doubts Anderson could take the financial-discovery process beyond the archdiocese level.

This past March, the Riedles and all the parishes from the other side — the Diocese of Winona, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, the insurance companies, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and Father Tom — reached a monetary settlement.

Officially designated as a "substantial sum," the exact amount was not disclosed. Although no one involved has breached the nondisclosure agreement tied to the settlement, there was a hint of dollar figures discussed before the settlement was made.

Shortly after the suit was made public in 1987, Greg Riedle was charged with sexually abusing another girl. Although the judge eventually dismissed the case, during the testimony one of the witnesses in Greg's criminal trial testified that she had heard Greg say he had been offered between \$1 million and \$1.5 million to settle.

"There is no amount that is enough because you can't give back, the church can never give back to me the total trust that I would love to have," Janet Riedle said. "No amount of money is going to give Greg back the living happily ever after. . . . I think Greg was robbed of too many years of that process of growing up. I think Greg grew up

when he had his first contact with Father Adamson. And it was like an adult affair, and he was a child."

Janet Riedle has stopped taking the sacraments in the Catholic Church. She has, more or less, quit the Catholic Church, although "I go to church once in a while to please my husband." Her husband, John Riedle, who declined to comment for this story, is still active in the church.

When their son was discovered to be a sexual offender, Janet Riedle turned him in, alerted authorities and warned all those who might come in contact with Greg. Janet will never understand why her church did not do the same with its son, the Rev. Thomas Paul Adamson.

Bishop Carlson, who was asked to answer Janet's question about why the church did not inform people such as she did, said he did not think, under the circumstances, he could answer it to her satisfaction.

He regrets that she feels the way she does toward the church. When asked what advice he had for the Riedles, he said he didn't know if he had the right to advise them. But his advice in general would be this:

"There are lots of things that happen to people in their lifetime. And some of them are good, and some of them are bad. I think that if we let a negative experience paralyze us in some way and make us bitter, that experience continues to have some power over us. . . . It takes away our freedom."

After leaving the archdiocese in January 1985, Father Tom went back to the Diocese of Winona and then on to a treatment program in St. Louis.

For the past three years friends and family say he has been able to say mass privately. His superiors in the Winona Diocese have asked him to refrain from publicly exercising his priestly function. Father Tom said said in his most recent deposition.

He still receives some financial support from the Diocese of Winona, but his future is unclear even to him.

Father Tom has audited and taken courses at the University of Wis-



Staff Photos by Joey McLeister

Greg Riedle continued in a sexual addiction program after completing an in-patient treatment program. He has recently moved to Florida.

consin-Eau Claire. As of this past summer, he was living in Eau Claire. He still visits often his large family in Byron, Minn., and still officiates some church liturgies for family members.

When asked if the family had forgiven him, a sibling, who agreed to talk on the condition no name was used, praised the Tom Adamson who was always there to listen, to listen, to marry and bury the members of his family flock.

"He's my brother. I would never

turn my back on him; neither would the rest," the sibling said. "You forgive your brothers 70 times seven."

Father Tom sees therapists when he feels the need. But he still grapples with unanswered questions.

"Why would a person with my gifts take this kind of a risk and so on? You know, what does it have to do without a 14-year-old present and all those kinds of things," Father Tom said when discussing his

problem during the Aug. 30 deposition. "I think there's a lot in the intimacy-needs area, a lot in control, being a forceful, dominant, perfectionist type of guy that would like people around that I could be the lead guy."

"I've always worked at the idea of being celibate. . . . Anybody can be celibate for a day. But then you extend that over weeks and months I found in my experience that something was going to explode. . . ."

On a summer afternoon, when a



Father Thomas Adamson

reporter and a photographer knocked on Father Tom's door to ask about his side of this story, he declined to discuss any of the matters or personalities involved.

He even declined to open the door.

So Father Tom spoke through it the way priests speak through walls in confessionals:

"My mother sees it in the papers. Her friends call her. You can't know what she has been through. You can't know," Father Tom said.

Greg Riedle is no longer involved in an inpatient treatment program, but he is a member of a sexual-addicts support group.

"I have my one-year medalion," said Greg, who has since moved to Florida. "I haven't showed myself to anybody for a year."

When asked if he, also a sex abuser, were any better than Father Tom, Greg bristled at the question.

"Anybody who tried to compare me to Adamson, I'd argue that. And it's an argument I'd win. Because I am better," he said.

But he admits it is a battle: "I will always have this stuff in the back of my head. It doesn't go away. It always comes back somehow, some day. Anytime it wants."

Lawsuits name Winona diocese

Two new suits charge former priest with sexual abuse

By Tom Wilkowske
Winona Daily News

Two new lawsuits filed on Thursday charge that the Rev. Thomas Adamson, a former Winona priest, sexually abused two boys while he served at Catholic parishes in Columbia Heights and Rochester.

The suits name the Roman Catholic Diocese of Winona, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and the churches involved, but not Adamson.

One suit also alleges that Adamson sexually abused at least 11 minor boys while he was em-

ployed by the Winona Diocese as a teacher and principal at parochial schools and as a parish priest across southern Minnesota from 1964 to 1975.

He also sexually abused at least 11 additional minor boys while he was employed by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis as a parish priest between 1975 and 1985, the suit alleges.

St. Paul, Minn., attorney Jeffrey Anderson, who brought the suits, said he has represented four other plaintiffs who charged sexual abuse by Adamson and won settlements from the church.

Winona Diocese Bishop John Vlazny was out of town and unavailable for comment, according to diocese officials.

The Rev. Gerald Mahon, vicar general of the Winona Diocese, said neither he nor other church officials would comment, on the advice of the diocesan attorney, George Restovich of Rochester,

Minn.

The plaintiffs' attorney, Jeffrey Anderson of St. Paul, said one suit was filed in Anoka County District Court on behalf of a John T. Doe and his parents.

The family members were parishioners at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Columbia Heights when the Rev. Thomas Adamson served there as administrator with full pastoral duties.

In 1979-80, the plaintiff, who was 13-14 years old at the time, served as an altar boy at Immaculate Conception at the insistence of his parents. Adamson became "an honored guest" at the family's home on several occasions and took some vacations with the family at their summer home, according to the suit, served on defendants on April 3.

Starting in 1979 and continuing into 1984, Adamson "regularly and repeatedly sexually exploited and sexually abused the then-

minor plaintiff," on overnight trips to Rochester, Minn., and on recreational outings, the suit said.

Both suits state that Adamson was under "the direct supervision, employ and control" of both the Winona Diocese and the archdiocese while the alleged abuse occurred. Adamson was transferred to the archdiocese in 1974.

In the other suit, served on defendants on Jan. 20, a plaintiff identified only as H.C. claims that Adamson "regularly and repeatedly engaged in unpermitted, harmful and offensive sexual contact" while H.C. was a minor and student at St. Francis Parochial School in Rochester. The alleged abuse occurred between 1973 to 1981, according to the suit, filed in Ramsey County District Court.

Both suits seek more than \$50,000 from each of the named defendants.

City/Region

Lawyer appointed for murder-plot suspect

Students vandalize elementary school

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (AP) — A Minnesota man charged with plotting to kill a priest, he says sexually assaulted him when he was an altar boy will be defended by a state-paid lawyer even though he isn't financially eligible, a judge decided.

Gregory J. Riedle, 26, of St. Paul was scheduled to appear today in Eau Claire County Circuit Court. He was being held Wednesday in lieu of \$50,000 cash bond on a charge of attempted first-degree intentional homicide.

Riedle is accused of plotting to kill the Rev. Thomas Adamson who now resides in nearby Altoona. Adamson was born in Byron and was pastor of St. Francis Catholic Church in Rochester for several years. He also was an assistant principal and Lourdes High School in the mid-1960s.

"Because of the seriousness of the charge, he should have some representation ... and he should have it now," Judge William O'Brien

"Because of the seriousness of the charge, he should have some representation ... and he should have it now."

Judge William O'Brien

en said in appointing a public defender for Riedle Tuesday.

He said he made the appointment in light of the seriousness of the case, Riedle's lack of liquid assets and the possibility of private attorney fees costing several thousand dollars.

But he said Riedle eventually may have to repay up to \$2,000 in attorney fees.

During a brief hearing, public defender Lawrence Durning told O'Brien that Riedle's only income is a \$1,000 per month payment he is receiving from the settlement of a civil lawsuit against the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Riedle sued the archdiocese in 1988 for being sexually assaulted by the priest between 1977 and 1979 while an altar boy at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in St. Paul Park, Minn.

The priest has admitted to the relationship with Riedle, who was between 13 and 15 years old at the time.

Parents had complained to diocesan officials of alleged sexual assaults, but no charges were brought. Laws at the time did not require that police be notified of the allegations, Ivan Kubista, communications officer for the diocese of Winona, said.

A charging document prepared by the district attorney's office says Riedle was arrested May 21 in an Eau Claire tavern before he could carry out the attack he was accused of planning against the priest.

Police learned of a possible attack when Riedle's girlfriend told them she believed Riedle was on his way to the Eau Claire area to kill the priest.

Even though no crime occurred, Wisconsin law allows Riedle to be charged as if it did.

District Attorney Raymond Pelrine referred to a statute that recognizes an attempt when a defendant takes unequivocal steps toward carrying out a crime and would have committed it had it not been for the intervention of another or some other extraneous factor.

The priest's assault of Riedle

was unknown to authorities until 1984, when Riedle made the revelation while serving a 21-month prison sentence for burglary and molestation at St. Cloud Reformatory.

By then, the statute of limitations had expired and the priest could not be prosecuted criminally.

Since 1981, six civil suits have alleged sexual abuse of boys by the priest, who also served congregations and institutions in the Minnesota cities of Columbia Heights, Apple Valley, Caledonia and St. Paul Park.

Four of the suits have been settled out of court.

Kubista described the priest as "retired."

"Once ordained a priest, you're always a priest," Kubista said. "However, he may not be active or performing any priestly function."

Ben Franklin School was vandalized earlier this week by a group of five second- and fourth-graders who entered the school through a door that was not chained properly, school officials said.

The damage was minor and not permanent, Principal Art DeWitz said, adding that it consisted mostly of tipped chairs and artwork being taken off walls.

The students were able to get into the school through a door in the school's construction area that was not chained tightly, DeWitz said. Apparently, the students entered the school Saturday and again Monday, he said.

The students involved in the vandalism have been suspended for 1½ days, he said. A police officer also talked with the students.

"We want them to know this is not permissible," DeWitz said.

Diocese drafts sex-abuse policy

By PAULINE WALLE
Lifestyle Special Writer

WINONA — The attorney for the Winona Diocese said Wednesday that a new policy dictating that employees in the diocese be questioned about sexual abuse is not flawless but is a start toward protecting children.

George Restovich of Rochester was leading a workshop for Catholics on sexual conduct and ministry. He was legal counsel when the diocese was sued for not reporting sexual abuse by the Rev. Thomas Adamson, who served in Rochester and several other churches in the diocese.

Restovich called the new, seven-page policy a "liability prophylaxis." It is for all employees or applicants who would come in contact with children. It will require them

"We know some people who sign these papers and have a problem will lie to us. But it's a start."

George Restovich

to sign documents saying they had never been accused, arrested or convicted of sexual misconduct.

"We know some people who sign these papers and have a problem will lie to us," he said. "But it's a start."

The policy will make the rounds of clergy and lay employees for their reaction. Most Rev. John Vlazny, bishop of the 20-county diocese, or his designee will be responsible for implementing it.

Restovich said the document calls for suspending

someone accused of sexual misconduct until investigation, and firing or removal of the employee if abuse is proven.

Priests are considered priests for life but if it is recommended by experts, the bishop may take steps to remove him from office, Restovich said.

Part of the problem for the Winona Diocese, Restovich said, was that specialists didn't recommend Adamson be removed from the presence of children. After treatment, "We were assured that

Father Adamson didn't have any problems anymore and look what happened to us."

A reporting law already on the books requires church leaders to notify law enforcement or social services when they become aware of abusive behavior.

"It is important for us to understand our roles, and to try to make sure we don't do, or do something to permit, this kind of problem to continue," Restovich said. "We as a church and church leaders will be judged more harshly. There is no room for error here."

Adamson has been relieved of his duties and is living in Wisconsin. Although the diocese technically has no liability for him, Restovich said if he gets in trouble again, "The Diocese would still be sued because of the deep pockets

theory."

The children most likely to suffer from sexual abuse the most are those who have had problems all along, he said. "You won't see class presidents and 'A' students exhibiting signs of abuse."

A woman in the audience challenged him on the statement, saying that overachievers might not report abuse because of fear they won't be believed. It affects each child differently, she said.

He said each issue would be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Restovich said his concern for the future was the area of volunteers. He encouraged their talents and involvement in church activities but predicts there will be a big case somewhere in the country involving sexual abuse by a volunteer in the church.

FROM PAGE 1

ANDERSON/Attorney pioneered sex-abuse suits against members of clergy

CONTINUED FROM 1A

allegations against Catholic priests. Anderson said he currently is handling cases in seven states and has about 90 lawsuits pending. About 50 involve clergy. "I represent the downtrodden, the underprivileged, the disempowered, those who have been stomped by the powerful," Anderson said. "I don't have any wealthy clients."

Anderson's abuse cases are taken on a contingency basis, which means he and his law firm get nothing unless he wins.

But he has won in a big way. Anderson estimated that churches have paid more than \$10 million over the past three years to settle his clients' sexual abuse cases. He said his firm's share is always at least one-third of the settlement and sometimes more.

Ramsey County District Judge Kathleen Gearis, who attended law school with Anderson, said many people think he has "discovered a gold mine. But that's not how it started. He took risks."

Now, sexual abuse by clergy is a popular field with lawyers, Gearis said, but "a lot of people were afraid of it when Jeff started." She said the first cases Anderson took were among the first in the country, and "he could easily have done all that work and been unsuccessful. He put in a lot of time and money with no guarantee."

Anderson is a spontaneous, outgoing, talkative man who gets heated and intense when he talks about what he regards as mistakes by church authorities in dealing with sexual abusers.

He is short and has a broad-shouldered build that indicates his high level of physical activity. "I kid myself about being short," he said. "I'm 5 feet 6 on my toes. My height is a factor in my drive. ... I think I jump higher and try harder. When I play basketball, I'm ferocious."

Anderson describes himself as an agnostic, someone who doesn't know whether there's a God or not. When he grew up in Edina, he said, his parents made him go to church, first to American Lutheran Church and later to Congregationalist services. "I always resented that," he said.

Anderson said he has no hesitation or guilt about accusing clergy. Attorney Mark Wendorf, who has worked with Anderson on the abuse cases, said Anderson

at Aquinas Church in St. Paul Park, where Adamson was associate pastor. Adamson has since admitted abusing Riedle.

Krauel said he was reared as a Catholic and didn't want to go after the Catholic Church. He said he referred the case to best trial lawyer I knew and also a good friend.

Anderson talked to the Riedles, investigated further and then sued Adamson and the archdiocese. He spent a significant part of the next 2½ years taking dozens of sworn statements.

He said he was shocked at what he found. Adamson and others who were interviewed referred to several other victims.

But Anderson said what made the case so flagrant was the fact that church officials knew of Adamson's problem for a long time and didn't react properly. In several lawsuits, Anderson alleged that authorities in both the archdiocese and the Diocese of Winona knew of the priest's abuse and yet continued to assign him to parishes where he had contact with more young boys. According to the lawsuits, Adamson's sexual abuse of boys spanned about 20 years, beginning in the early 1960s.

In February 1987, Anderson made the Riedle lawsuit public by filing it in court. More alleged victims came forward. Eventually, Anderson said, he found 28 victims. Anderson has represented nine of them in lawsuits. Five of the lawsuits, including the one brought by Riedle, have been settled without trial for undisclosed amounts.

As the Adamson matter was publicized

"Abuse by authority that is venerated and revered like a priest is even more harmful and damaging than being held at gunpoint and forced."

JEFF ANDERSON

in the media, Anderson started getting calls about cases involving other clergy and authority figures. He said the calls



ERIC MILLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeff Anderson, the long-haired, self-proclaimed "hippie" and Vietnam War protester of his college and law school years now sits behind a desk in a fancy law office, has shorter hair and wears expensive suits.

now 17. They were divorced 10 years ago after 13 years of marriage.

Anderson married his second wife, Julie, three years ago. She is pregnant with their first child, due in September.

Anderson, his wife and his daughter live in an old Victorian home in Stillwater he bought 12 years ago. Built in 1881, it once belonged to a lumber baron and has been completely redone inside and out. Anderson has filled it with antiques, which he hunts for while traveling and buys at estate sales and auctions.

Following his first marriage, Anderson worked in a warehouse by day, sold shoes in the evening and was an apartment caretaker. Later, he roofed houses and cooked at a restaurant.

He went to night school and eventually became a full-time University of Minnesota student in 1968. He received his degree in journalism with honors two years later. He was a shoe buyer for the Powers stores for a year before entering law school, and worked a variety of jobs during his early law school years.

Anderson views his present work as an extension of the type of law he has practiced during his entire legal career — rep-

resenting poor people. The case was dismissed.

Anderson subsequently was hired as an investigator by Legal Assistance of Ramsey County. He worked there during his last two years of law school. As a student attorney certified to do courtroom work, he represented poor people charged with misdemeanors.

Following his law school graduation in 1975, Anderson rented an office with five other lawyers, including Reinhardt. He and Reinhardt eventually got their own office and hired other lawyers.

Anderson was a part-time Ramsey County public defender from 1975 to 1982, representing poor people charged with crimes. He also did criminal defense for private clients.

"He was a very assertive young lawyer and did a very good job for us," said William Falvey, chief Ramsey County public defender. "He really related well to the underprivileged people he was representing. His clients liked him."

Eventually, Anderson said, he started doing more civil work, representing people injured in auto accidents or on the job. Then came the fateful call from Krauel

"I think the work that I do ... makes them better," Anderson said of the churches. "It's cleaning their houses."

The Rev. John Malone, a St. Paul Catholic priest who also is a lawyer, said he agrees with Anderson at least in part. He said the lawsuits have made the church look very seriously at the problem. Malone, who teaches at the College of St. Thomas, once worked with Anderson as a public defender.

But Malone said he disagrees with Anderson's view that the church was grossly negligent. He said church officials know little about the problem of sexual abuse several years ago.

Eisenzimmer, the archdiocesan attorney, said, "The church, like everyone else, is going through a process of understanding these issues and learning how to deal with them. To some extent, litigation can make it more difficult to deal with them. It's hard to respond to the victim if you can't respond except with a lawyer looking over his shoulder."

The Rev. Michael O'Connell, archdiocesan vice general, has worked with vic-

Andrew Eisenzimmer, attorney for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, said Anderson is "a tenacious advocate for his clients' interests" and an opponent he has found he can trust. "I know I can take him at his word," Eisenzimmer said. He added that Anderson "is fortunate in that his advocacy corresponds with his personal views."

The fact that another attorney had a conflict with his religious background got Anderson started in the field of sexual abuse by clergy.

Thomas Krauel, who now practices in White Bear Lake, was working for Anderson when he was approached in the fall of 1984 by the parents of Gregory Riedle. The Riedles lived across the street from Krauel in Chicago City, Minn.

Gregory Riedle was in prison at the time. Anderson said he had been convicted of burglary and of a sex charge involving a young girl.

Riedle had just told his parents that he was sexually abused years before by the Rev. Thomas Adamson, a Catholic priest. The abuse began in 1977 when Riedle was 13 and lasted for two years. At the time, Riedle was an altar boy at St. Thomas

other lawyers. Eventually, there was enough work in this area for him to drop other matters.

"Jeff is recognized as a leading attorney in the country" in the abuse area, one of a handful of experts in the field, said Mark Reinhardt, his law partner. "Jeff took what was essentially an unknown area in 1984. He has created a lot of the law in the area. I think that's a testimony to his doggedness in refusing to give up."

When Anderson was growing up, he was not showing the sort of promise that indicated he would be a highly successful lawyer. He had a poor academic record at Edina High School. "I didn't like the classroom," he said. "I never tended to business."

Anderson was born in Minneapolis. His father was a furniture buyer for Dayton's and later sold wholesale furniture to stores. His parents are retired and live in Florida. He has two sisters.

After high school graduation, Anderson attended Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, for a year before getting married at 19. He and his wife, Patricia, had a son, Matthew, now 23, and a daughter, Amy,

who have been wronged.

Ironically, his first case involved a client charged with committing a crime in a church.

Anderson was in his third year of night school at the William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. His record had not been good. He was disciplined for not attending classes and later flunked out. He was readmitted after retesting in all classes.

Anderson's disillusionment and lack of interest were cured when he entered a class on criminal law taught by Rosalie Wahl, now a Minnesota Supreme Court associate justice. The class was a criminal law clinic in which the students represented poor people charged with minor crimes.

Anderson's first client was a street person charged with indecent exposure in the basement of a church.

"All of a sudden I had a real person with a real problem, and I was able to do something about it," Anderson said. "It absolutely turned me on to law."

The man actually had been urinating in a restroom, Anderson said. He argued that his client was charged because he

Anderson said his present clients' injuries are just as real as those of the accident and job victims. He said the psychological effects of abuse can lead to suicide attempts, chemical dependency, eating disorders, sexual disorders, depression and other ills. Some of the abuses, like Riedle, become abusers themselves.

"Abuse by authority that is venerated and revered like a priest is even more harmful and damaging than being held at gunpoint and forced," Anderson said.

Anderson's critics suggest that his representation of sexual abuse victims is simply in his own economic self-interest, but he disagrees intensely.

"I like getting paid, but money has never motivated me," he said. "I feel that this is accomplishing something, that it is making something better for somebody."

Anderson said the lawsuits not only help the people he represents but also are instrumental in preventing future abuse. After Anderson sued the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, for example, its leaders announced a more stringent approach to dealing with allegations of sexual misconduct by priests and church professionals.

victims of abuse and their abusers, as well as on the sexual abuse lawsuits.

"I think there's been a very heightened consciousness in society about the area of abuse" because of highly publicized cases like those in Scott County several years ago, O'Connell said. He said lawsuits and public awareness have influenced policies in churches, schools and elsewhere.

"Litigation certainly contributed" to changes in dealing with abuse, he said, but "it's not the only thing."

Asked about his future, Anderson said he doesn't make long-term plans, but he's not expecting any major change in direction.

He said he expects to continue "embracing the causes of frail human beings" and challenging established authorities. He said he doesn't necessarily lack respect for authority, but feels requirements have to make sense and respect must be earned.

"I'm always trying to slay a monolith," Anderson said. "The likelihood of that continuing is pretty great."

Two Catholic dioceses admit responsibility for sexual abuse by priest

By Donna Halvorsen
Staff Writer

Two Catholic dioceses admitted Friday that they are partly responsible for severe psychological damage suffered by a 24-year-old Minneapolis-area man who was sexually abused by a priest as a teenager.

St. Paul attorney John Hoffman, representing the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, told an Anoka County District Court jury that the church's monitoring of the Rev. Thomas Adamson and restrictions placed on his activities after allegations of sexual abuse surfaced were not effective.

Hoffman said that church officials had information about alleged contact between Adamson and teenage boys after those restrictions were imposed but did not check it out. "We

could have, we should have, but we didn't," Hoffman said.

He said one of the church's biggest mistakes was in believing Adamson when he denied the allegations. Hoffman and George Restovich of Rochester, representing the Diocese of Winona, admitted that both church bodies are guilty of negligence and said they will pay damages. But they denied that the dioceses were guilty of willfully employing an unfit priest.

The case in which the young man is seeking damages from the Twin Cities archdiocese and the Winona diocese is only the third case of sexual abuse by a priest to come to trial in the country, according to the victim's attorney, Jeffrey Anderson of St. Paul. It is also the first case anywhere in which a judge has allowed a sexual

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World news

Adamson

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abuse victim to seek punitive damages from the Catholic Church, Anderson said.

The case was one of six sexual abuse cases filed against Adamson, 57, who served parishes in southern Minnesota and the Twin Cities from 1961 to 1984. Four have been settled and one is pending in Ramsey County District Court.

Judge Phyllis Jones told jurors yesterday that this case involves four lawsuits: two by the young man against the dioceses, one by his parents against the Twin Cities archdiocese and one by the Winona diocese against Adamson.

Adamson now lives in Wisconsin and no longer functions as a priest. His attorney, Theodore Collins of Minneapolis, said Adamson accepts full responsibility for his actions and will not deny any of the allegations raised in the trial. Collins told the jury that Adamson was sexually abused by a hired hand on a farm near Rochester where he grew up.

Anderson told the jury that Adamson's abuse of the victim in this case began in 1979, when the boy was 13 and he and his parents were parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights. The abuse continued into his adult years, and he suffered severe psychological injury as a result, Anderson said.

"This is not a case against Father Thomas Adamson," Anderson told the jury in his opening statement. "This is a case against those in the church . . . that had the power, that had the ability to prevent this from ever happening. For it was they who placed Father Adamson at that location, in that position of power and of trust, with knowledge that he had abused boys in the past."

Anderson said church officials had received several reports of alleged sexual abuse involving Adamson starting in 1961, and he was sent to a psychiatrist in Rochester in 1967 and to a psychiatric hospital in Connecticut in 1974.

But Bishop Loras Waters of the Diocese of Winona continued to place him in other parishes until the brother of one of his victims called Waters and threatened to take over the pulpit of St. Francis Church in Rochester during mass and expose Adamson, Anderson said.

Anderson said Adamson was then moved to the Twin Cities archdiocese and placed in parishes in St. Paul Park, Columbia Heights and Apple Valley, where he continued to abuse boys.

Anderson said the young man, who did not disclose the abuse until 1989, "can be treated and he may get better, but he will not be cured."

Hoffman and Restovich said the church is not responsible for all of the young man's problems. They said he had a personality disorder that predated the sexual abuse, that he came from a troubled family with a history of alcoholism and that he was also sexually abused by a nun.

Testimony in the case will begin Monday morning.

Watters testifies in Adamson sex trial

Says he tried to move Adamson to new environment

By Michael Fibison

Daily News Correspondent

ANOKA — Former head of the Catholic Diocese of Winona, Loras Watters, testified in Anoka County Court that he tried to change the sexual abuse record of Rev. Thomas Adamson by moving him to a new environment.

Adamson admitted in court Tuesday that he had sexual relations with a 13-year-old boy in Adrian for over a decade, and several other incidents in at least five communities, including Rochester and Caledonia, spanning 15 years.

Following six and a half hours of prosecution from plaintiff attorney Jeffrey Anderson, Watters said, "I was hoping the positive elements would be productive."

The retired bishop said Adamson's treatment in institutions and

his out-patient relationship with Rev. Kenneth Pierre gave Watters "fond hope and prayer that he (Adamson) would one day gain pastoral duties (after being restricted to monasterial work)."

Yet Watters admitted to systematically preventing Adamson from returning to the Winona Diocese for fear of scandal and rumors.

In a letter from Archbishop John Roach, head of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Roach cited Watters' wishes that Adamson not be reinstated in the Winona Diocese, or anywhere close because of the threat of scandals.

Anderson undermined Watters' testimony by contradicting a 1986 and 1987 deposition to Thursday's testimony, and using more than 100 pieces of evidence including blow-ups of letters sent by Watters.

Anderson focused on the inadequacy of the church leaders to

► Please see TRIAL/4A

Winona Daily News, Fri., 11/07/92
Winona Daily News, Fri., 11/01/92

► Trial/Tried to change record

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properly handle Adamson, specifically Watters administrative role.

Vicar General of the Diocese of Winona, the Rev. Gerald A. Mahon defended Watters, citing a unique managerial style.

"I know his management style," Mahon said. "I don't think it (Watters' style) is so much deception." He added that because Watters uses generalities, room is made for misinterpretation of his actions.

Watters did not deny he had knowledge of all of the incidents, although he claimed his knowledge was not in depth. "I was told there had been problems, but I didn't go into detail," he said, adding, "I've been concerned about Father Adamson since 1973."

As bishop, he sent Adamson to the Archdiocese of St. Paul, after anonymous phone calls, later identified by Adamson and Watters as an angered victim, threatened to expose the sexual conduct of the priest unless he was moved.

Watters again said he only had a vague notion of Adamson's sexual exploits, because he "didn't want to violate his (Adamson's) conscience" but Anderson ques-

tioned whether Watters had informed Roach of Adamson's actions.

Again, the church elder said, "Possibly I did, I don't remember."

The move, coupled with the out-patient guidance, allowed Adamson to once again perform pastoral duties, resulting in another complaint about him being in a hot tub with young boys.

The civil case was filed by an alleged victim of Adamson's sexual solicitations, and the Diocese of Winona, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis are being sued. They in turn are suing Adamson.

Mahon said the dioceses have already admitted negligence.

"We have admitted negligence, in that, in retrospect, you can see that mistakes have been made, and today we have policies and procedures in place," Mahon said.

We lacked knowledge about sexual misconduct, he said, Watters testified that sexual misconduct is a disease similar to alcohol, and the church is working to change the misperceptions.

The victim who filed the complaint will testify today in Anoka County Court.

TA000258

Adamson admits to sexual misconduct during priesthood

By Donna Halvorsen
Staff Writer

The Rev. Thomas Adamson's 32-year priesthood had finally come down to this: sitting in a courtroom Monday, admitting sexual acts with teenage boys in many of the Catholic parishes he had served in southern Minnesota.

It was the first time that Adamson, 57, had spoken publicly about sexual misconduct spanning more than two decades that spawned numerous lawsuits and a plot by one of his victims to get even.

Dressed casually, with a sweater vest and an open-necked white shirt, the kindly looking, bespectacled priest testified quietly but with steely control. Gone was the smile that had occasionally crossed his face when he sat beside his attorney on Friday as one of the civil cases filed against him came to trial in Anoka County District Court.

His attorney, Theodore Collins, told the jury Friday that the gray-haired priest would not deny his sexual misconduct "because he cannot do that anymore and remain alive in any real sense."



Rev. Thomas Adamson

So yesterday, spending the entire day on the witness stand, Adamson admitted that in 1961, three years into his priesthood, he began a relationship with a 13-year-old boy in Adrian, Minn., that would continue for a decade and cause his ouster from the Diocese of Winona.

He admitted that in Caledonia,

Adamson continued on page 13A

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Adamson

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Minn., in 1964, he touched an eighth-grade boy, prompting the bishop to summon him to the chanery in Winona for an explanation.

He admitted that in Rochester, Minn., in 1966, he asked two boys to remove their clothing in front of him, causing a priest to refer him to a psychiatrist for counseling.

He admitted that in a different Rochester parish in 1973 or 1974, he touched a boy in a swimming pool or sauna, causing the bishop to send him to a psychiatric hospital in Connecticut for three months of treatment.

He admitted that in St. Paul Park in 1977, he began a relationship with a 13-year-old altar boy that began by touching and progressed to more explicit sexual contact over two years. The young man, now 26, was arrested last May in Eau Claire, Wis., near where Adamson now lives, with a butcher knife and wooden club in his car. When the young man was placed on three years' probation for attempted felony battery last August, he said he had gone there to confront Adamson.

Adamson also admitted that in Columbia Heights, in 1980, he touched a boy twice, causing church officials to have him hospitalized for treatment and to order him to have no further contact with youths.

He will take the witness stand again today to answer more questions posed by Jeffrey Anderson of St. Paul, attorney for a 24-year-old man who is seeking compensation for psychological damage. The alleged sexual contact began in Columbia Heights in 1979, after the admonition from church officials, and continued for several years.

Collins said his client will not deny contact with the youth but will refuse to answer questions about it, invoking his constitutional right not to incriminate himself.

Star Tribune/Tuesday/November 6/1990

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Adamson is a defendant in only one of the four lawsuits involved in the case. The others were filed by the young man and his parents against the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, to which Adamson was transferred after threats to expose him were made by a victim's family in the Diocese of Winona.

Anderson's purpose in asking Adamson for details about his misconduct was not only to establish a pattern of abuse but also to show the church's efforts — or failure — to deal with it.

Adamson was not asked to explain his conduct, only to outline it. The explanation is likely to come on cross-examination and in the testimony of expert witnesses.

Adamson was moved out of the Diocese of Winona and into the Twin Cities archdiocese at the end of 1974 after the brother of one of his victims

threatened to take to the pulpit of a Rochester church and expose him.

"Father Thomas Adamson continues to be a concern," the minutes of the diocese's personnel committee read for a meeting on Dec. 7, 1974. "The facts that have been rather contained over the past months are little by little becoming more known."

Adamson's parishioners in the St. Francis parish in Rochester were told he was leaving to study at the University of Minnesota. Adamson admitted Friday that the real reason was the threats being made by the family of a young priest who, while undergoing treatment for alcoholism, had revealed that he had been sexually abused by Adamson for a decade, beginning in Adrian in 1961.

Adamson admitted several instances of sexual abuse that occurred after he was transferred to the Twin Cities area.

Book 11/16/70

Adamson: I told doctor to talk with church officials

ANOKA — The Rev. Thomas Adamson testified this morning that he authorized a doctor to discuss his case with church officials.

The testimony came as attorneys for a 24-year-old man tried to show that church officials did nothing to stem Adamson's contact with young boys.

The lawsuit in Anoka County District Court involves the claim that Adamson abused the man when he was a boy who attended a church in Columbia Heights. The defendants are the Diocese of Winona and Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis.

In his first public comments on the case, Adamson Monday admitted sexually abusing a number of boys beginning with a youth in Caledonia in 1961. He admitted abusing boys in Rochester, southeastern Minnesota and the Twin Cities.

Attorney Jeffrey Anderson, representing the man, argued the church was negligent. As he questioned Adamson today, there were three, large court exhibits in the background. Those exhibits show a pattern of abuse over 20 years, listing the year, location and victims and detailing the names of those who apparently

Adamson says he began abuse in 1961 — Page 1A

knew about the abuse.

Rochester attorney George Restovich, representing the Diocese of Winona, said former Bishop Loras Watters was to testify today. He said most of the witnesses for the rest of the week will be priests from the diocese.

Restovich expects the trial to last through Thanksgiving.

Bluff development discussion planned

WINONA — A public discussion on development of the bluffs along the Mississippi River will be held at 7 p.m. Nov. 14 at the Tau Center, 511 Hilbert, in Winona.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission will host the discussion. It is one of several the commission is holding along the river to discuss bluff-area development and what people think about it.

Priest says he began abuse in 1961

Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — A former Rochester priest chronicled for jurors his repeated sexual abuse of young boys as he made his first public comments on the flurry of accusations that began after six lawsuits were filed against him.

The Rev. Thomas Adamson, 57, was the first witness Monday in a trial that will focus on his sexual abuse of young boys but seeks damages from Adamson's employer, the Roman Catholic Church.

A Columbia Heights man claims he was 13 when the priest began molesting him in 1979 while Adamson was pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights.

He and his parents allege the abuse continued through 1984 even after Adamson had been transferred to an Apple Valley church, causing serious emotional and physical damage to the victim.

Inside:

● More testimony from the Rev. Thomas Adamson — Page 2B

The victim and his parents are seeking punitive damages, alleging the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis showed willful indifference by failing to remove Adamson from duty when they knew about Adamson's 20-year history of abusing boys.

Jeffrey Anderson, the plaintiffs' attorney, called Adamson as a witness to chronicle the incidents of sexual misconduct and the alleged failure of church officials to act when they knew there was a danger to church youth.

Adamson recalled the first of his alleged victims, a 13-year-old boy. He said he began a relationship with the

"I believe he (Archbishop John Roach) knew something or had been told by someone in the diocese."

Rev. Thomas Adamson

boy in 1961 in Caledonia, three years into his priesthood.

Adamson admitted numerous other sexual improprieties in succeeding years, but said he victimized the boy periodically over a 10-year span regardless of where he was stationed.

He testified that the victim subsequently became a priest and ultimately was the reason Adamson was hurried out of the Winona Diocese to the Twin Cities in 1975.

He said the victim had been admitted to a facility for alcoholism treatment and had revealed to his brother the lengthy sexual abuse.

Adamson was sent to the

archdiocese for treatment and study after the victim's brother threatened to publicly denounce him from the pulpit of a Rochester church.

Adamson recalled when he was in Rochester, he was confronted by Bishop Edward Fitzgerald about sexual improprieties while he was assigned to a Caledonia church. He said he admitted his behavior to the bishop.

When asked how the bishop reacted, Adamson swallowed hard, near tears, and said, "Well, he was very shocked and disappointed and found it hard to believe."

"Did you cry?" Anderson asked.

"Yes, as I remember I did," Adamson said.

Anderson asked him if the church authorities in the Twin Cities knew why he was being transferred so hurriedly. Adamson said he had the impression they knew.

"I believe he (Archbishop John Roach) knew something or had been told by someone in the diocese," Adamson said. "However, he never mentioned any of the incidents that the (Winona) bishop had talked to me about."

After the move, Adamson was assigned a post at a St. Paul Park church, where he admitted abusing a 13-year-old boy over a two-year period.

Adamson seemed to struggle to talk about the incidents, and many of his "yes" replies were barely audible.

The trial is the only one resulting from six lawsuits involving Adamson. Four were settled out of court and one case is pending.

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Priest won't take responsibility for all problems of abuse victims

Margaret Zack
Staff Writer

Rev. Thomas Adamson said in court Tuesday that he accepted responsibility for sexually abusing boys while he was the pastor of various Catholic churches and acknowledged that they may have been psychologically damaged as a result of his abuse.

He said he did not feel totally responsible for all the problems the young men have suffered. Adamson said he had made amends to some

victims and asked for their forgiveness.

"I expressed my sorrow. I changed my life," he testified in Anoka County District Court, where jurors are considering evidence in a suit filed against Adamson by a 24-year-old man who was abused by the priest 10 years ago.

Adamson, who grew up on a dairy farm near Rochester, Minn., with 11 brothers and sisters, said yesterday that he was abused by a hired hand for two years, beginning when he was

15.

When his attorney, Theodore Collins, asked him about his relationship with his family, Adamson began to sob, then said, "The heaviest part of my pain is how my mistakes have weighed on them."

Adamson is the first witness in a case that involves four lawsuits. Two were brought by the abuse victim, who is seeking damages from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Diocese of Winona for continuing to employ Adamson after allega-

tions of abuse surfaced. His parents also sued the archdiocese, and the Winona diocese sued Adamson.

Attorneys for the dioceses admitted in their opening statements Friday that they are partly responsible for the man's psychological problems but denied that they willfully employed an unfit priest.

Adamson asserted his constitutional right not to incriminate himself when he was questioned yesterday about repeatedly abusing the plaintiff, the son of parishioners at Immaculate

Conception Church in Columbia Heights. The alleged abuse began in 1980.

Adamson said he has not served as a parish priest for about five years. He now lives near Eau Claire, Wis., where he works as a hotel desk clerk and does volunteer work at a nursing home and retirement home.

His sexual activity with the boys was not a sexual issue as much as it dealt with power, control, intimacy and

Adamson continued on page 4B

TA000263

October 7, 1990

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Adamson Continued from page 1B

dominance, Adamson testified. He said that he knew that the activity was morally wrong but that he didn't consider the consequences for the boys.

Adamson said yesterday that Edward Fitzgerald, then bishop of Winona, talked to him in 1964 after Adamson touched a male student at a Caledonia high school where he taught and was superintendent.

The bishop told Adamson never again to engage in such behavior, Adamson said. But he said he didn't

tell the bishop that he had a continuing relationship with a 14-year-old boy that had begun in 1961.

"They (diocese officials) wouldn't have stood for it," he testified. "It was against the rules of the church, my ordination."

He also said he didn't tell Loras Watters, who became bishop in 1969, about his sexual history.

Throughout Adamson's career as a teacher and priest, allegations about abuse surfaced on several occasions.

But he testified yesterday that he worked with thousands of youngsters without abusing them and that he never forcibly abused anyone.

Although he sought professional help a number of times, including in-patient treatment in 1974, Adamson, 57, said he didn't deal with his problems until 1985. He said that since then he has had no sexual contact with minors.

The trial is only the third case of sexual abuse by a priest to go to trial in the country.

TA000264

City/Region

Adamson says he didn't think of impact on victims

By GRANT MOOS

For the Post-Bulletin

ANOKA — Allegations of sexual misconduct aside, the Rev. Thomas Adamson was portrayed in Anoka County District Court Tuesday as a good teacher, good student and tireless worker who knew how to give a good sermon on Sundays.

He was so good a student, in fact, that he scored the highest moral rating in a test administered to new priests by their colleagues. But by his own admission, Adamson engaged in sexual misconduct with numerous boys when he knew it was wrong.

And while he testified that he believed he made "amends" with God for his actions, he said it wasn't until recent years that he considered the impact on his victims.

"What it did to the individual, I don't think I ever looked at it," he said.

The civil lawsuit brought by a 24-year-old man and his parents against the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis continued into its fourth day this morning and is expected to last another two to three weeks.

Adamson, 57, had worked at parishes in Rochester, Kasson, Dodge Center, Byron, Fountain, Wykoff, Chatfield, Lanesboro, Caledonia, Adrian, Albert Lea and Mapleton in the 1960s and early 1970s. Some of the assignments, however, were brief.

Now working as a motel clerk in Eau Claire, Wis., Adamson publicly admitted on Monday that he had abused several boys over a 20-year period. He said he is no longer a practicing priest

and has resolved his sexual problems since attending a treatment center in St. Louis in 1985.

Six lawsuits have been brought against the Roman Catholic Church as a result of Adamson's conduct, four of which have been settled out of court, said Jeffrey Anderson, the attorney for the 24-year-old victim. The Anoka County case, stemming from abuse while Adamson was a priest in Columbia Heights and Apple Valley, is the only one to go to trial.

The issue is, how much should the victim, who says he was first abused at age 13 by Adamson, be compensated, said the attorney for the Diocese of Winona.

"We don't deny he (Adamson) abused the plaintiff and others," said diocese attorney George Restovich of Rochester. He said after the court session Tuesday that the young man and his family are seeking \$2 million in damages.

"We don't think that's reasonable," Restovich said. And although both the Diocese of Winona and Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis have in turn sued Adamson, Restovich said they don't expect to recover much, if anything.

Adamson testified Tuesday that he makes little money as a motel desk clerk, and for a while worked as a salesman for Encyclopedia Britannica.

Adamson spent all day Tuesday on the witness stand, explaining his early duties in the priesthood that took him across southern and southeastern Minnesota.

The son of a rural Rochester dairy farmer, Adamson said he

learned to work hard on the farm and brought that work ethic to the priesthood.

"By the age of 9 I could handle the dairy load by myself," he said. After working as a teacher at Cotter High School in Winona, Adamson said he was transferred by the diocese in 1961 to Adrian, where he began to abuse a boy who later became a priest.

That relationship, which continued for several years, was ultimately the one that led to his transfer in 1974 to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. After the brother of the Adrian boy learned of the abuse, he threatened to take the pulpit at St. Francis Church in Rochester, where Adamson was then pastor, to denounce Adamson.

Adamson also admitted sexually touching a boy while at St. Francis in 1973 or 1974 in either a pool or a sauna; asking two boys in 1966, when he was an administrator at Lourdes High School, to take off their clothes; and sexually touching a boy in 1964 when he was working at a parish in Caledonia.

Anderson maintains that the church's failure to prevent Adamson from coming into contact with young boys amounted to a "willful indifference" to the safety of children.

Restovich, however, said the Diocese of Winona took repeated steps to curb Adamson's conduct, including sending him to psychiatric therapy, but nothing seemed to work. Even his diagnosis remained elusive.

"The problem is that no one fully recognized his problem, even the professionals," said Restovich, after the Tuesday court session.

Added Adamson during his cross-examination, "Some of the difficulties in my life weren't sexual. It was the whole me."

Adamson trial taking 1 different twist after another

By GRANT MOOS

For the Post-Bulletin

So why did the Rev. Thomas Adamson sexually abuse young boys?

The four-woman, four-man jury did not seem to get a very clear answer to the question when Adamson's attorney, Theodore Collins, asked him to explain it to them. Nor did Adamson look directly at any of the jurors when answering the question.

"I think I came to a better understanding how that actually happened — who I am. Hidden things," said Adamson, adding that it had more to do with power, control, dominance and perfectionism than sex.

While that response seemed to raise more questions than it answered, it was just one of several different twists to a courtroom session marked by a series of emotional moments.

When asked to describe his relationship with his family, Adamson broke down on the witness stand Tuesday and began sobbing loudly. Later, following a courtroom break, Adamson, who said his mother still lives in rural Rochester as do many of his 11

brothers and sisters, explained that his family is very close.

When attorney Jeffrey Anderson repeatedly questioned Adamson about the specific dates on which a boy was abused, Adamson appeared visibly angered and loudly voiced his objection to the question to the judge — a job normally performed by attorneys. Judge Phyllis Jones allowed the question.

And although Adamson was visibly angered by Anderson's line of questioning at one time, in another instance Adamson politely reminded his inquisitor that he had inadvertently left an exhibit on the witness stand.

The trial is somewhat unusual on two other counts.

First, both the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis admitted at the outset that they were negligent. So, gone, for the most part, is the up-front adversarial relationship of most trials.

Second, Adamson has repeatedly invoked his Fifth Amendment rights — remaining silent so as not to incriminate himself — even though his attorneys freely admit Adamson abused the boy who is now 24.

Rech. p-8
11/8/90

Bishop says he didn't know about sex abuse history

From staff reports, wire services

ANOKA, Minn. — A retired bishop of the Winona Diocese testified in a civil trial that when he became a bishop there in 1969, he was unaware one of his priests had a history of sexually abusing boys.

Bishop Loras Watters said Wednesday he received no information about the Rev. Thomas Adamson's problem from the previous bishop or other diocese officials.

Watters took the stand in the Anoka County trial in which Adamson has admitted sexual misconduct in the diocese beginning in 1961 and in the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis after he was transferred there in 1975.

A 24-year-old Columbia Heights man who contends Adamson began abusing him in 1979 is suing the two dioceses. He says the dioceses were negligent and willfully indifferent in allowing Adamson to work as a priest, when church authorities knew about his abuse history.

The man and his parents claim the abuse continued through 1984 after Adamson had been transferred to an Apple Valley church and caused serious emotional and physical damage to the victim.

But Watters' testimony Wednesday differed sharply from the version Adamson earlier told the jury and Judge Phyllis Jones.

Adamson had said he admitted to the late Bishop Edward Fitzgerald sexual improprieties between 1964 and 1967 while serving parishes or schools in Caledonia and Rochester.

Watters denied knowledge of those admissions and of Adamson's claim that previous diocesan authorities had ordered the priest to undergo psychiatric counseling.

Watters said he first learned of a potential problem through an anonymous phone call in December 1973. On the basis of that call, Watters said Wednesday, he suggested to Adamson that he consult with a psychiatrist. Watters said he was unaware that Adamson in previous years had seen a psychiatrist.

This morning Watters said Adamson was evaluated by Rochester psychiatrist Dr. Francis Tyce, who recommended that Adamson enter a treatment center in Hartford, Conn.

He was treated there for two months, returning to St. Francis Church in Rochester in August 1974. Watters said Adamson was to have followup outpatient consultations. But he learned in October or November of that year that Adamson was not regularly keeping those appointments.

Watters said he told Adamson to resume the outpatient appointments or face possible removal from the parish.

In December 1974, Watters said, he received an anonymous phone call from a man complaining about improper contact by Adamson. He said he met with Adamson and determined the call came from a staff member at St. Francis whose brother had been abused by Adamson at Adrian, Minn.

The person called back a few days later and threatened to take over the pulpit at St. Francis to denounce Adamson.

Watters said he told the caller that he would not remove Adamson on the basis of anonymous phone calls. But he told jurors today that he already had decided to remove Adamson from St. Francis.

Watters said he met with the victim, then a priest who was being treated in Rochester for alcoholism, but the victim did not talk about abuse by Adamson.

Watters said he removed Adamson within a week of the second call in order to get Adamson involved in outpatient consultation. The threat of public exposure by the caller was one factor in his decision, Watters said.

Adamson's recollection of how he came to enter treatment differed sharply from Watters'. He testified that while he was pastor in Rochester, he had sexually touched a youth in a swimming pool in April 1974. Adamson said he admitted the incident to Watters, which resulted in his entering treatment. Watters had no recollection of that Wednesday.

Bishop testifies that Adamson denied sex abuse until year after allegation

By Margaret Zack
Staff Writer

Retired Bishop Loras Watters, former head of the Catholic Diocese of Winona, testified Wednesday that he first learned of concerns about the Rev. Thomas Adamson's sexual contacts with boys when he received an anonymous phone call in December 1973.

Watters said the caller was brief and would not give names or dates. He said he went to see Adamson at his parish in Rochester several days later and asked him about the allegations.

Adamson denied the caller's accusations. But Watters said he asked Adamson to see Dr. Francis Tyce, a psychiatrist at the Rochester State Hospital, for an evaluation.

As a result of that testing, Tyce recommended that Adamson go to a treatment center in Hartford, Conn. Adamson spent about 2½ months there in the summer of 1974.

Watters testified yesterday in Anoka County District Court in a lawsuit filed against Adamson, the Winona diocese and the Archdiocese of St.

Paul and Minneapolis by one of Adamson's abuse victims. The victim, now 24, said he was abused by Adamson at a Columbia Heights church 10 years ago and claims that church officials should have known the priest had a history of molesting young boys.

About a year after the anonymous call, another caller told Watters that Adamson had molested an adolescent boy. The bishop said he confronted Adamson, who said there was a "problem" with the youth.

Adamson, testifying earlier yesterday, said he had a long relationship with the youth, which began shortly after he was ordained in 1958. The sexual relationship began when the boy was 13 years old and continued for about 12 years, he said.

"He enjoyed it. I enjoyed it. I didn't feel it harmed him and he said it didn't harm him," Adamson testified.

He said that relationship "preconditioned" him to repeat it with other adolescents.

Watters, who became bishop in

March 1969 and retired in October 1986, said he did not ask specifically what Tyce found after treating Adamson because he thought that was a confidential matter between doctor and patient and because he had confidence in the doctor.

Watters' account differs from Adamson's. Adamson said he first told Watters that he'd had sexual contact with a youth in April 1974 and it was that incident that led to his treatment in Connecticut.

Watters also said that neither Tyce nor Adamson told him that Adamson had sought treatment from the psychiatrist after two incidents in 1966 and 1967 involving boys at Lourdes High School in Rochester, where Adamson was assigned.

In 1964, when Adamson was a priest in Caledonia, Minn., he talked to Watters' predecessor, Bishop Edward Fitzgerald, about an incident involving a boy. Watters said Fitzgerald and other church officials did not tell him about the earlier allegations against Adamson.

Winona Daily News

Winona, Minnesota — Thursday, November 8, 1990

2 sections/35 cents

Retired Winona bishop testifies

Church officials should have known about sexual conduct, says man suing Adamson

By Margaret Zack
Minneapolis Star Tribune

Retired Bishop Loras Watters, former head of the Catholic Diocese of Winona, testified Wednesday that he first learned of concerns about the Rev. Thomas Adamson's sexual contacts with boys when he received an anonymous phone call in December 1973.

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►Please see TESTIFIES/4A

► Testifies

From page 1A

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Ex-bishop testifies in sex-abuse suit

By Donna Halvorsen
Staff Writer

What did the bishop know and when did he know it?

The retired bishop of the Diocese of Winona testified Thursday that he didn't know much about the Rev. Thomas Adamson's sex-abuse problem when he asked that Adamson be transferred to the Twin Cities in 1974, and that he didn't tell Archbishop John Roach what he did know.

The Rev. Loras Watters told a jury in Anoka County District Court that he never asked Adamson, now known to have abused teenage boys over 20 years, for a recitation of his sexual history.

"I didn't do it because I respected the integrity of his conscience," Watters said. He said he talked to Adamson about Adamson's sexual identity problem but never knew "the degree,

the extent, the kinds of activities that were going on."

Watters spent the entire day on the witness stand yesterday testifying in a suit by one of Adamson's victims, a 24-year-old man who is seeking damages for psychological injury from Adamson, the Winona Diocese and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The diocese and archdiocese have admitted negligence but say they are not guilty of willfully employing an unfit priest.

Watters said he asked that Adamson be transferred to the Twin Cities in December 1974 so he could receive continued therapy as recommended by a psychiatrist at a Connecticut hospital where Adamson had spent the previous summer. Watters said he thought he was "being very honest" when he told Roach that he wanted Adamson to receive therapy at a counseling center run by the archdiocese in St. Paul.

Watters said that the archbishop could have inferred that Adamson had a psychological problem but that he gave him no specifics. Nor, he said, did he tell Roach the nature of Adamson's problem when, a year later, he asked Roach to keep Adamson in the Twin Cities for another year to 18 months.

In a memo that was admitted into evidence, Roach said then that Watters had assured him that Adamson was "a good priest who is a victim of a situation in Winona."

Adamson resigned as pastor of St. Francis Church in Rochester and was transferred to the Twin Cities after the brother of a young priest who had been sexually abused by Adamson over 10 years threatened to expose him in the parish. Watters said he didn't tell the archbishop about the situation because he thought that Adamson's treatment was working and that the problem, in a new setting, would be resolved.

Watters described himself as a stickler for confidentiality during his 17 years as bishop. He said he typed his own letters and visited priests rather than having them come to the chancery because he didn't want anyone to know who was being summoned to see the bishop.

The Rev. Kenneth Pierre, the archdiocesan psychologist who was seeing Adamson, recommended twice in 1975 that he be returned to the Winona Diocese to do parish work, and Adamson also repeatedly asked to return, but Watters refused. He said he was worried about the possibility of scandal.

Pierre never said that Adamson was an unfit priest but instead was optimistic that he could return to parish work, Watters said. "I guess I come to the conclusion now that these professionals didn't know much more about this problem than I knew," he said.

Brother of Adamson sex abuse victim testifies that he warned bishop in '74

By Donna Halvorsen
Staff Writer

The brother of one of the Rev. Thomas Adamson's sex abuse victims testified Friday that he called Bishop Loras Watters in 1974 and threatened to expose Adamson from the pulpit of his Rochester church if Watters did not relieve the priest of his duties.

The 44-year-old man, now a community corrections official in southwestern Minnesota, testified in Anoka County District Court that his brother, a priest who was undergoing chemical dependency treatment in Rochester, had revealed during the course of treatment that he had been sexually abused by Adamson starting at age 13.

The testimony came in a suit filed by another of Adamson's victims, who is seeking damages for psychological injury from Adamson, the Winona Diocese and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The diocese and archdiocese have admitted negligence but say they are not guilty of willfully employing an unfit priest.

The man said he called Watters, who then was bishop of the Diocese of Winona, and "told him our family wanted this man out of the priesthood, that he had abused our brother and we didn't want him in a position where he could abuse other kids."

Watters was "quite noncommittal," he said. "As I recall, what he said was that Father Adamson was a very good priest, these are very serious allegations and I'm not sure there's anything we can do about it in line with what your family wants."

He also said the bishop told him that even if the allegations were true, it

would be up to Adamson to decide whether to leave the priesthood.

In a second call, the man said he told Watters he had gathered information indicating that Adamson had "at least 20 victims" going back 10 years and that a second brother of his was among them. He said Watters told him it would be best for Adamson's therapy if he resigned on his own.

In a third call, the witness said, he told Watters "that Father Adamson had to be out of the priesthood and that if he ever said another mass at St. Francis, my brother . . . and I would be on the pulpit telling the parishioners who and what he was."

He said the second brother took the phone and told Watters that he, too, had been abused by Adamson while Adamson was serving at a parish in Adrian, Minn., in 1961 and '62. Several hours later, the witness said, Watters called back and said Adamson had resigned.

Adamson was transferred to the Twin Cities, where other allegations of sexual abuse surfaced, including the one that is the subject of the trial. The man who filed the suit is now 24 and was a parishioner at Immaculate Conception Church in Apple Valley. His attorneys have attempted to show a pattern of sexual abuse that continued even after church officials were aware of Adamson's problem.

The brother's testimony contradicted Watters' in two respects: Watters said that the 1974 caller did not identify himself and that the information received in the calls was vague. The witness said he clearly identified himself both as the brother of the young priest and as a teacher in Adamson's Rochester parish.

The second brother also testified, describing how he told Watters about his own abuse in the third phone call. He said Watters' response was "that I was upset and things would get better."

The young priest, now 42 and living outside the country, is no longer working as a priest.

Adamson, 57, now lives near Eau Claire, Wis., and also no longer works as a priest.

California to test roadside pollution

Associated Press

Sacramento, Calif.

California smog squads will begin random roadside testing in the spring of diesel smoke from heavy trucks and buses under a program adopted Thursday by the state Air Resources Board.

The program will apply to all such vehicles in the state regardless of where they are registered. The program requires the testing and repairing, if necessary, of gasoline-powered passenger cars every two years.

The state already has two programs to control diesel emissions. But it adopted the new one because of medical findings that some of the sootlike particles in diesel smoke are small enough to get through the body's natural filtering system and cause tissue damage deep in the lung. The particles also can carry potentially cancer-causing compounds, including dioxin and benzene.

APLS 11/10/90

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City/Region

Priest: Church aware of Adamson allegation

Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — A priest says an official of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis ordered him to keep an eye on the Rev. Thomas Adamson after being told of allegations that Adamson made a sexual advance to a boy.

The Rev. Joseph Wajda, formerly of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Columbia Heights, said he learned of the allegations in November 1980 from two altar boys who had assisted Adamson at a wedding.

Wajda's testimony Tuesday before an Anoka County jury came in a civil lawsuit brought against the archdiocese and the Diocese of Winona by a 24-year-old man who says he was one of Adamson's victims.

According to Wajda, the boys told him that Adamson tried to grab another boy while the priest and the boy were in a whirlpool bath at a health club.

Wajda said he sought advice from a friend, the Rev. Robert Carlson, chancellor of the Twin Cities archdiocese. Besides the whirlpool incident, Wajda said he told Carlson about boys staying at the rectory and taking a shower with Adamson in the school locker room.

Wajda also noted that the 24-year-old man who filed the lawsuit was "spending a lot of time" with Adamson.

At a later meeting in Carlson's office, Adamson said he was returning to the Winona diocese to talk with his bishop, Wajda said. Carlson, who is now a bishop, said Adamson was not to have contact with any young people, Wajda said.

Wajda said he later met with the father of the boy from the whirlpool incident. The father said he himself had been abused by a priest.

"He stated he was concerned

this not happen to anybody else," Wajda said.

Carlson told Wajda to look for more incidents and report back to him.

Adamson left his position in Columbia Heights and told parishioners he was on loan from the Winona diocese and was being called back. After Adamson left, Wajda testified that he learned that Adamson was maintaining contact with the boy who eventually filed the suit.

Under cross-examination, Wajda said he had seen nothing to cause concern about Adamson's behavior until he overheard the comment by the two altar boys.

He also testified that he didn't see any inappropriate contact with young people after Carlson told him to keep an eye on Adamson.

Earlier this year, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis settled a lawsuit that accused Wajda of sexually abusing a 12-year-old altar boy in 1973 while he was a priest at St. Raphael's Church in Crystal. The civil suit was the second brought against Wajda regarding his tenure at the church.

Sister Patrice Neuberger, a worker at Immaculate Conception, said she also brought her concerns to Carlson in late 1980 after hearing rumors from a teacher at the school.

"I had no proof, it was just rumor ... but it was serious enough to say something," Neuberger said. She said the allegations dealt with homosexuality.

Neuberger said Carlson told her "something would be done immediately."

The Rev. LaVern E. Trocinski testified earlier Tuesday that he recommended against allowing Adamson to return to the Diocese of Winona because of threats to expose allegations of sexual misconduct against

Adamson.

Trocinski testified that then-bishop Loras Watters informed the Winona diocese's priest personnel board in 1974 of a problem with Adamson. The board makes recommendations on placement of priests in the diocese.

Watters had received telephone calls about Adamson and "there was concern with sexual misconduct," said Trocinski, who was a member of the board.

Minutes of the board's May 1974 meeting spoke of Adamson's "recurring problem," he said.

A nun who was principal of St. Francis school in Rochester when Adamson was parish priest there, said she went to Watters in 1975 with an allegation she had heard about Adamson.

Sister Micheon Welsh said she heard from a teacher that Adamson was naked in the teacher's brother's bed when the brother was a teen-ager. The teacher did not say if there was sexual contact, Welsh said.

Welsh said she brought her concerns to Watters, who told her she had nothing to worry about.

"He led me to believe I had no reason to be concerned about the children in the school," she said.



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11/15/78

City/Region

Psychiatrist: Sex abuse by priest scarred victim

Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — A former Rochester priest's sexual abuse of a Columbia Heights man for nine years has left him emotionally scarred to the point that he will likely never recover, a California psychiatrist testified.

Dr. Martin Blinder said the 24-year-old victim suffers from anxiety attacks, despondency, crying spells, alcoholism and sexual dysfunction stemming from the Rev. Thomas Adamson's molestation of him beginning in 1979.

"I found a 24-year-old man whose growing up was arrested in adolescence. He can never recapture those lost years," Blinder told an Anoka County jury Wednesday. "I think for the most part he'll always be crippled in some way."

Blinder was called by the young man's attorney, Jeff Anderson, in the civil lawsuit against the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Adamson has admitted sexual misconduct with boys in the Winona Diocese beginning in 1961 and in the Twin Cities archdiocese after his 1975 transfer.

Blinder testified that the man who filed the lawsuit reported being sexually abused by Adamson, his family priest, from 1979 to 1987, and said the priest was joined in the abuse by a nun in 1984.

The victim was evaluated by Blinder during a two-hour session on June 15 in San Francisco at Anderson's request.

The victim "feels in many ways he stopped growing about the time this inappropriate sexual activity began — age 13. He sees himself not much older than a 12-year-old," Blinder said.

"Was sexual molestation by Father Adamson a contributing factor in his symptoms?" Anderson asked.

"Yes, sir," Blinder replied.

Blinder testified that the man told him of a family history of alcoholism and said he began drinking heavily before he met Adamson. However, he said the drinking grew worse after the abuse began.

The abuse, "in my opinion, augmented his turning to alcohol to make his problems go away," Blinder said. "Father Adamson fed (the victim) alcohol. They'd get tanked up together."

"Clearly for a priest who knows there is alcoholism in a man's family, to feed the young man alcohol was an abuse," Blinder said.

"That's what's particularly tragic in this case," Blinder said. "The priest could have had a positive effect ... could have turned the young man around."

During cross-examination by John Hofman, representing the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Blinder acknowledged the youth found parts of his relationship with Father Adamson pleasurable.

"It was a mixed experience, as it usually is," Blinder said. "I believe there were parts of it that were pleasurable."

He also acknowledged that sexual abuse "doesn't have to always destroy an individual." He said the young man reported no other homosexual experiences after his relationship with Adamson ended and said the victim feels he can recover.

"He is now going steady but he continues to have sexual prob-

lems," Blinder said.

Attorney Ted Collins, representing Adamson, asked Blinder whether he wouldn't agree that, in addition to Adamson's negative influence on the young man, there also were other factors, such as alcoholism in his family, that were a negative influence.

"I certainly would," Blinder replied.

The young man "was already emotionally vulnerable. This is the kind of individual who is much more susceptible to a predatory male," Blinder said under cross-examination by George Restovich, attorney for the Winona Diocese.

The Rev. Kenneth Pierre, who has been a priest for 27 years and a psychiatrist for 19 years, later testified that he had treated Father Adamson after he admitted in May 1974 that he had had homosexual contacts with two adults and two high school boys.

Pierre testified that Adamson spent three months in 1974 in the Institute of Living, an in-patient clinic for people with sexual misconduct problems, in Hartford, Conn.

Pierre said he treated Adamson from May 1974 until January 1976 because of concern about his sexual behavior, but said Adamson stopped calling.

Pierre said he felt Adamson should have continued the treatment.

On Dec. 1, 1980, Pierre said he received a call from a priest who said Adamson was in trouble for grabbing the genitals of a teenager in a swimming pool.

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11/16/90*

Archbishop denies knowing priest abused boys

Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — Archbishop John Roach has acknowledged that he made mistakes in handling the Rev. Thomas Adamson, but denied that he knew the former Rochester priest was suspected of sexually abusing boys when he was transferred from the Diocese of Winona to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Roach, the spiritual leader of 645,000 Roman Catholics, testified Thursday that it may have been two years after Adamson's transfer before he became aware that Adamson might have sexual abuse tendencies.

"If I knew in 1975 what I know about Father Adamson now, none of this would have happened," Roach told an Anoka County jury in the trial of a lawsuit filed by a 24-year-old Columbia Heights man. The man has accused Adamson of abusing him for nine years, beginning in 1979.

Adamson has admitted sexual misconduct against boys in the Winona Diocese dating to 1961 and against boys in the Twin Cities after his 1975 transfer. But Adamson and church officials deny an allegation in the lawsuit that the church's handling of Adamson exhibited willful indifference to the safety of people who came in contact with Adamson.

The lawsuit against the archdiocese, Diocese of Winona and Adamson seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages. Other lawsuits by Adamson's victims were settled out of court for undisclosed amounts of money.

Roach said he was unaware that Adamson had sexual problems when he placed the priest at St. Leo's Church in St. Paul in January 1975.

At the request of Winona Bishop Loras Watters, Roach granted housing to Adamson at St. Leo's in exchange for minimal parish work by Adamson, Roach testified. He said Watters told him Adamson was on leave to study at the University of Minnesota.

Jeff Anderson, attorney for the plaintiff, said in court that Roach's testimony conflicted with an October 1984 letter from Watters to Roach, in which the Winona bishop recalled that Adamson's "involvement with juvenile males" was the reason he asked Roach in 1975 "to consider helping Father Adamson."

Roach said Watters' letter was mistaken in its recitation of the 1975 events.

Watters testified earlier at the trial that he erred in his 1984 letter in recalling the circumstances behind the 1975 transfer.

Under questioning from

"If I knew in 1975 what I know about Father Adamson now, none of this would have happened."

Archbishop John Roach



Anderson, the archbishop said he met with Watters in the spring of 1985, after lawsuits against Adamson and the church had been filed, to "make certain that he and I, really, had the same recollection.

"Not in a conspiratorial sense," Roach added, "but in a sense that we were remembering the same things, yes."

Roach said he was informed by Watters in January 1975 that Adamson was to keep in constant touch with a psychologist at the archdiocese's consultation service center for priests, but Roach said he didn't ask why Adamson was undergoing therapy.

He said he couldn't remember when the meeting at his residence occurred.

At the private meeting with Watters, Roach said Watters told him that Adamson "had been suspected of being involved in a homosexual relationship." The archbishop said he assumed the alleged relationship was with an adult and acknowledged that he asked neither Adamson nor the priest's therapist about it.

Roach said it wasn't until 1981, after he had named Adamson pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights, that he heard of an allegation that Adamson had sexually abused a boy. The complaint came from a boy at the parish and Adamson confirmed it.

Roach testified that he instructed Adamson to resign from the church and to tell parishioners that he was being called back to the Diocese of Winona.

Instead of sending Adamson to Winona, the priest entered a two-week psychotherapy treatment which Roach said he believed would help Adamson deal with his problems. But the therapist, Joseph Gendron, testified that he treated Adamson for depression, not for sexual problems.

It wasn't until January 1976 that Roach heard of any hint that Adamson had sexual problems, he said. The hint came from Watters, who asked in a telephone conversation that Adamson be allowed to stay in the archdiocese for another year or year and a half for reasons Watters did not want to discuss over the telephone, the archbishop said.

"There was a great mystery about that," Roach said about the telephone call. "I really wasn't sure what he meant."

But Roach said another year might have passed before he met with Watters privately to discuss Adamson.

Bishop: Adamson's history known

Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — Catholic leaders knew the Rev. Thomas Adamson had sexually abused a boy, but waited more than six years before sharing the information with parents of another boy who was close to the priest, Bishop Robert Carlson testified Friday.

Carlson, a chief adviser to Archbishop John Roach and chancellor of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, said Adamson was under orders not

to have contact with any youths after the priest admitted in late 1980 that he sexually abused a boy while he was pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights.

While the order was in effect, Carlson heard at least two reports that Adamson was seen with another boy, but the boy's parents were not warned, he said.

"It did not occur to the archbishop that I go see them," Carlson testified.

It wasn't until 1987, after the first of

several sexual abuse lawsuits against Adamson began to be filed, did Carlson instruct a priest at Immaculate Conception to contact the parents of the second boy, Carlson said.

Now 24, the man has filed a lawsuit accusing Adamson of sexually abusing him for nine years beginning in 1979. The suit against Adamson, the archdiocese and the Diocese of Winona, contends church officials exhibited willful indifference to the safety of others.

Winona Daily News Sat., 11/17/90

Bishop says he warned Roach about Adamson

By Margaret Zack
Staff Writer

A close adviser to Archbishop John Roach testified Friday that he warned twice that "The archdiocese would regret it" if the Rev. Thomas Adamson were not fired for having sex with boys, but that he was overruled by Roach.

Bishop Robert Carlson said he told Roach that he did not trust Adamson and that the priest should be re-

moved from parish work.

Carlson said the first disagreement with Roach occurred in January 1981 when Adamson was assigned to Risen Savior Church in Apple Valley. He had been removed from Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights after he admitted having sex with an adolescent boy.

At that meeting, Carlson, who then

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Star Tribune Sat. 11/17/90

Adamson

Continued from page 1A

was chancellor of the archdiocese, said he told Roach and another church official that he suspected that Adamson would repeat his behavior and that "The archdiocese would regret it" if he were not fired.

Carlson was called to testify in Anoka County District Court in a suit by a 24-year-old man who says that as a teenager, he was abused by Adamson at Immaculate Conception Church. The man is seeking unspecified damages from the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for psychological damage allegedly caused by Adamson. Church officials have admitted that they were negligent but deny that they willfully employed an unfit priest.

Roach testified Thursday and conceded that he mishandled the Adamson case in an effort to get help for the priest. Although Carlson's testimony yesterday did not contradict his superior's, it clearly suggested for the first time that there was sharp disagreement among high church officials over how to deal with Adamson.

Carlson said his second disagreement with Roach occurred after a report was received that Adamson attempted sexual contact with a 12-year-old boy at Risen Savior in 1983. "I said he should be terminated," Carlson testified.

Instead, Adamson was given a written list of conditions of continued employment, including a warning that he have no contact with minors. Carlson said he warned Roach again that the archdiocese would regret the decision and that he believed that the scope of Adamson's abuse went beyond the incidents that were known at the time.

"I had this feeling that Father Adamson . . . was admitting only what we definitely knew already," Carlson said.

The mother of the boy in the Apple Valley incident testified yesterday that she called the Rev. Michael Korf, then head of the archdiocesan priest personnel board, because she had not received a response from church officials about the incident. Korf told her that Adamson would receive counseling, she said.

Carlson, who became an auxiliary bishop in 1984, said that he thought the archdiocese was dealing with an isolated homosexual incident, but that it was the disease of pedophilia, the sexual attraction to children. Roach had testified that he, too, was ignorant about the signs of pedophil-

Adamson continued on page 9A

Adamson

Continued from page 8A

ia.

Although Adamson admitted in 1980 that he had abused a boy at the Columbia Heights church, it was not until 1987 that archdiocesan officials contacted the boy's family.

Carlson said that when he was gathering documents for another suit involving Adamson, he came across the references to the Columbia Heights incident and asked the priest at Immaculate Conception to call the family. The family was not aware of the abuse allegation at that time, Carlson said.

When asked why an investigation wasn't conducted earlier, Carlson said, "We see that as a mistake today."

Korf, who was assigned to monitor Adamson while he was at Risen Savior, said he received positive reports from Adamson's psychiatrist and a priest psychologist who also saw Adamson regularly. A memo in October 1982 said the psychiatrist reported that Adamson's progress exceeded his expectations.

In June 1984, Roach wrote to Korf that he thought they were at a point where they should seriously consider assigning Adamson to be pastor of a parish. At that time he was an associate pastor in Apple Valley.

"God knows he is a superb parish priest," the letter said.

Roach had testified that he placed too much emphasis on the positive elements of a psychiatric evaluation of Adamson.

Adamson has not resigned from the priesthood but no longer functions as a priest. He lives near Eau Claire, Wis.

Woman testifies she hoped Adamson would lead her son into priesthood

By Margaret Zack
Staff Writer

The mother of a Columbia Heights man who allegedly was abused by the Rev. Thomas Adamson testified Monday that she had been proud of her son's friendship with the clergyman and hoped it might mean he would become a priest.

She told Anoka County District Court jurors that her family met Adamson in 1979, when her son, then 13, was an altar boy at Immaculate Conception Church, where Adamson was assigned. They became friends and Adamson vacationed with family members at their lake home and performed a mass for the couple on their 25th wedding anniversary, she said.

After he left Columbia Heights in 1980, the family stayed in touch. The woman testified that she drove her son to visit Adamson at the rectory of Risen Savior Church in Apple Valley several times. He sometimes was alone with Adamson at the rectory overnight, she said.

"In my mind, I thought he was going to become a priest. That was something I dreamed of, one of my sons a priest," she testified.

When allegations of Adamson abusing boys became public in 1987, the woman said, she asked her son if he had been molested. He denied it. She said she also called Adamson, who denied abusing anyone.

"I believed him. I wanted to believe my son because Adamson was such a close friend that he wouldn't hurt you like that," she said.

About two years later the boy told his father that he had been molested by Adamson.

"My world just changed," said his mother, describing her reaction.

The son, now 24, and his parents sued the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis claiming psychological damage as the result of the abuse. The defendants have not disputed that Adamson abused the boy. He has admitted

abusing other boys but refused to testify in this one's trial about his relationship with him. The trial began Nov. 2.

The father of the victim also testified yesterday.

He said, "I've got a broken heart. I didn't know any human being could have done this."

Both parents said their son was a popular but not particularly good student. They said he developed a drinking problem as a teenager. In 1987 he left Minnesota for Washington state, saying he was going to try to get a new life, his mother said.

Attorneys for the diocese, archdiocese and Adamson cross-examined the parents about an older son's death two months ago from complications of alcoholism. The attorneys apparently are trying to link the younger son's difficulties to family problems rather than the abuse by Adamson. The son is expected to take the witness stand today.

Star Tribune 11/24/90

City/Region

Parents testify they felt betrayed by abusive priest

Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — A woman testified that she felt betrayed when she learned that a former Rochester priest who had befriended her son and become a good friend of the family had been sexually abusing the 13-year-old boy.

A Columbia Heights couple recalled Monday how pleased they were that the priest paid special attention to their son, who was an altar boy.

"We thought it would be good for (the victim) to have a friend like that," the mother testified in Anoka County District Court. "He invited us to the rectory ... just sort of got into our lives ... we thought it was great."

Their son, now 24, said the Rev. Thomas Adamson began molesting him in 1979 while Adamson was pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights.

The woman testified that the family stayed in touch with Adamson after he left Columbia Heights in 1980. She testified that she drove her son to visit Adamson at the rectory of Risen Savior Church in Apple Valley several times. He sometimes was alone with Adamson at the rectory overnight, she said.

"In my mind, I thought he was going to become a priest. That was something I dreamed of, one of my sons a priest," she testified.

When allegations of Adamson abusing boys became public in 1987, the woman said, she asked her son if he had been molested. He denied it. She said she also called Adamson, who denied abusing anyone.

"I believed him. I wanted to believe my son because Adamson was such a close friend that he wouldn't hurt us like that," she said.

About two years later the boy told his father that he had been

molested by Adamson.

"I felt angry, sad and betrayed," the mother testified Monday. "My whole world changed."

The father said he was angry at Adamson, but more angry at the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for not letting people know about Adamson's history of abuse.

The victim and his parents are seeking punitive damages, alleging the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis showed willful indifference by failing to remove Adamson from duty when they knew about Adamson's history of abusing boys.

Adamson has admitted sexual misconduct with boys in the Winona diocese beginning in 1961 and in the Twin Cities archdiocese after his transfer in 1975.

Adamson, who now lives in Wisconsin, has not served as a parish priest for about five years.

Priest told him sex was a 'cleansing,' abused man testifies

By Margaret Zack
Staff Writer

The man suing the Rev. Thomas Adamson and two Catholic dioceses for psychological damage he claims to have suffered from a nine-year sexual relationship testified Tuesday that the priest told him they were "cleansing" themselves through sexual activity.

"Because he told me what we were doing was OK for him, I thought it was OK to do," said the 24-year-old

Minneapolis-area man during the trial yesterday in Anoka County District Court.

He described how the relationship began in September 1979 when Adamson was assigned to Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights. At the time the man was a 13-year-old eighth-grader; he said Adamson learned of his interest in sports and asked him to various athletic events.

Adamson continued on page 6B

Adamson Continued from page 1B

The victim said he and Adamson first had sexual contact in a whirlpool at a racquetball club. Over the next nine years, he said, he had sex on a regular basis with Adamson in a variety of locations, including the sanctuary of the church, a gas station and locker rooms. He said he had sex with the priest as many as five or six times in one day.

Adamson left Immaculate Conception in December 1980 after another youth said Adamson had abused him. The victim continued to visit Adamson at his new parish, Risen Savior in Apple Valley. The contacts decreased in frequency when he graduated from high school in 1984 and became more infrequent in 1986 and 1987, he testified.

As he got older, he said, he felt shameful and confused about his sexuality and lacked a moral sense about his sexual behavior.

The man said he last saw Adamson in February 1987 when a suit against Adamson by another youth became public. He said that he had sex with Adamson earlier that day and that Adamson told him not to believe the news reports.

"I said, 'How can it not be true when you did it to me?'" he said he asked Adamson.

He said Adamson asked him not to say anything about his case and offered him money to be silent. He told

no one about the abuse until February 1989.

The man is suing Adamson, the Winona Diocese and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The suits allege that church officials should not have allowed Adamson to continue to work because they were aware of a pattern of abuse of boys dating back to the early 1960s.

Church officials, including Archbishop John Roach, have admitted that they mishandled the case but deny that they willfully employed an unfit priest.

At one point in his testimony, the victim said the shameful feelings he experienced became clear after the news of the 1987 lawsuit in which Adamson was accused of abusing another youth.

"I felt hurt. I thought he liked me for who I was, not . . ." he said, unable to continue speaking. He then asked Judge Phyllis Jones for a brief recess to compose himself.

The victim testified yesterday that he has been in treatment for alcoholism three times and once for sexual addiction. He also said he had used cocaine and became addicted to prescription drugs when he had surgery for a shoulder injury in 1985.

He attempted suicide three times by mixing drugs and alcohol, he testified.

He said that when the friendship with the priest first began, he thought he would become a better person.

"To me, a priest was like a person above anyone else," he said.

In addition to being abused by Adamson, the man said, he was also abused by a nun who used to teach at Immaculate Conception School. They had sex about 20 times, beginning when he was 14 or 15, he said.

John Hoffman, an attorney for the archdiocese, questioned the man on whether he knew that a sexual relationship with a man was wrong and whether he knew that sexual relations outside of marriage were wrong.

At age 13, he had little knowledge of sex, the man replied, adding that the sexual relationship with the nun "just happened." He said he didn't feel he could say no.

He said Adamson told him when their relationship started that it would end when he became 18 or 19 and had girlfriends. Adamson also told him he would perform the youth's marriage ceremony when the time came, he testified.

Star Tribune / Stud. / Nov. 21, 1990

Star Tribune / Thurs. / Nov. 22, 1990

Priest's abuse left victim 'hanging on,' therapist says

By Margaret Zack
Staff Writer

Sexual abuse by the Rev. Thomas Adamson has left his victim "just hanging on," and suffering from depression, alcoholism and compulsive sexual behavior, his psychotherapist said Wednesday.

Psychotherapist Paul Gerber said the man, who is 24 years old, is a candidate for long-term care because of his problems. In one session the man said, "I lost 10 years of my life," Gerber testified.

The youth said he was abused by Adamson from 1979, when he was a 13-year-old altar boy at Immaculate Conception church in Columbia Heights, until 1987. He has sued the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Winona Diocese for

damages for the psychological harm he has suffered. He alleged that the diocese and archdiocese knew Adamson had molested other boys but continued to assign him to parishes.

He didn't reveal he had been abused until February 1989.

Gerber said the man's parents, who attended church regularly, no longer do so. He said they have been severely distressed by the abuse and have a lot of shame.

The parents testified earlier this week at the trial in Anoka County District Court that they had been pleased that a priest was a friend to their son. After Adamson left Immaculate Conception in December 1980 and was assigned to Risen Savior Church in Apple Valley, the parents continued to visit him and made arrangements

for their son to continue the friendship.

"They had great affection for Adamson and felt gifted and special to have him part of their life," Gerber said.

The victim's mother feels a tremendous amount of shame and hurt because she didn't recognize the relationship and protect her child, Gerber said.

"Our background was to always trust a priest. How did we rate to have a friend like this?" Gerber said the mother had told him.

Adamson's attorney, Theodore Collins, asked Gerber if he believed the victim when he said he and Adamson had 3,500 sexual contacts.

No, he said, he didn't believe that

number but said it was important because that's how frequent the victim believed the contacts to be.

Adamson's victim also was on the stand yesterday for cross-examination and said Adamson called him Sally Ann, supposedly because he had blond, curly hair. The man also said he had been abused by a former nun at Immaculate Conception school. He testified yesterday that he and the nun never talked about the propriety of their relationship.

When asked if he didn't know a sexual relationship with a nun was morally and legally wrong, he replied, "I don't believe I had any sexual morals."

He said he thought having a nun and priest for friends was good for him.

Psychiatrist will testify in defense of dioceses

By Donna Halvorsen
Staff Writer

St. Paul attorney Jeffrey Anderson rested his case against two Catholic dioceses Tuesday, paving the way for the dioceses to defend themselves against the allegation that they continued to employ the Rev. Thomas Adamson despite knowledge of his tendency to abuse young boys.

The Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of Minneapolis and St. Paul will bring a psychiatrist to the witness stand today to present a different view of the psychological problems suffered by the 24-year-old Columbia Heights man who is the

plaintiff in the case.

Anderson rested his case after the testimony of Susan Phipps-Yonas, a St. Paul clinical psychologist. She said the young man has suffered permanent damage from his eight years of sexual contact with Adamson, which started when he was 13, and will require psychotherapy for many years.

She characterized him as "moderately disabled" because of his inability to sustain adult relationships, to hold a well-paying job and to engage in other satisfying activities.

The dioceses have admitted negli-

gence but say they are not guilty of willful indifference to the young man's rights and safety. They contend that some of his problems have other causes, including alcoholism in his family and sexual abuse by a nun that began after his relationship with Adamson.

Adamson, 57, who now lives in Wisconsin and is no longer functioning as a priest, has admitted that he engaged in sexual activity with a number of boys in both dioceses but he refused to testify about the allegations involved in this case.

Phipps-Yonas said that if the young man had never met Adamson, he still

would have physical problems from a work-related shoulder injury, might still have problems with alcohol and might be unable to meet his occupational goals.

But she said that his family had no history of mental-health problems and that she saw no evidence that he had psychological problems before the abuse by Adamson began.

The trial, in its fourth week, is expected to wind up this week. After the defense rests, Anderson will present church financial statements to justify his claim for punitive damages.

Victim's troubles become issue in sex trial

By Donna Halvorsen
Staff Writer

Did a young man develop a personality disorder as a result of being sexually abused by the Rev. Thomas Adamson starting at the age of 13? Or was he born with the beginnings of a disorder that later manifested itself in compulsive sexual behavior?

An Anoka County jury that is hearing the young man's claim for damages against two Catholic dioceses was presented with those questions Wednesday as the long and unusual trial enters its closing days.

The Columbia Heights man, now 24, is seeking damages from the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, contending that they continued to allow Adamson to do parish work knowing of his tendency to abuse boys sexually. The dioceses, which began their defense in the case yesterday, have admitted they were negligent but say the young

man had problems that were not related to his abuse by Adamson.

Dr. Barbara Long, a Minneapolis psychiatrist who testified as a defense expert, conceded yesterday that the young man's case is an extremely complicated psychiatric case. She disagreed sharply with the diagnosis of two therapists who concluded that he suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of his eight-year relationship with Adamson, beginning when he was an altar boy at Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights.

Long said victims of post-traumatic stress disorder consistently recall a traumatic event in their lives in negative terms, whether it's a plane crash or sexual abuse. She said, however, that the young man recalled his sexual experience with Adamson as pleasurable until he learned that Adamson had been having sex with other boys as well. Then he was distressed that he was no longer special to the

priest, she said. She described the young man as being "moderately" damaged by the priest and said his abusive relationships with women are a direct result of his involvement with Adamson.

She diagnosed the young man as having a borderline personality disorder, marked by difficulty in relationships and compulsive behavior. She said she believes that the disorder has strong origins in genetics and in the mother-child relationship during infancy. Her testimony differed from that of St. Paul clinical psychologist Susan Phipps-Yonas, who testified Tuesday that a newer theory is that the disorder is often the result of abuse.

Long's other diagnosis was of alcoholism and cocaine abuse. She said she believes that the young man would have become an alcoholic even if he had not met Adamson because two of his siblings, one of whom died of liver disease in his 30s,

also had alcohol problems. Her theory that the young man's problem was in large part genetic in origin was disputed by his attorney, Jeffrey Anderson, who said neither parent had ever seen any type of counselor until they learned of their son's abuse last year.

Spending the entire day on the witness stand, Long agreed that it is difficult to establish cause and effect in cases involving sexual abuse. She said it is well-known that many people suffering from borderline personality disorders have histories of sexual abuse. "What we don't know is what this means and whether it's a significant or a relatively minor causal factor."

Yesterday Judge Phyllis Jones dismissed the parents' suit against the archdiocese, ruling that there was insufficient evidence for their claim of emotional distress. The defense is expected to complete its evidence today or Friday.

Prosecution rests in Adamson case

Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — The prosecution in a priest-sex abuse trial rested its case after a clinical psychologist testified that the victim suffered permanent damage from eight years of sexual contact with the priest.

Susan Phipps-Yonas testified that the victim, who was 13 when the abuse started, will require psychotherapy for many years.

She characterized him as "moderately disabled" because of his inability to sustain adult relationships, to hold a well-paying job and to engage in other satisfying activities.

The victim, now a 24-year-old Columbia Heights man, and his parents are seeking punitive damages, alleging that the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis showed willful indifference by failing to remove the Rev. Thomas Adamson.

The dioceses planned to bring a psychiatrist to the witness stand Wednesday to present a different view of the psychological problems the victim is experiencing. The dioceses have admitted negligence but say they are not guilty of willful indifference.

Final arguments are expected to begin Monday.

Adamson episode hurts entire church

The tale which is emerging from an Anoka, Minn., courtroom is an appalling one.

It is in that courtroom that a victim of years of sexual abuse at the hands of a priest is suing the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul for punitive damages.

The priest, the Rev. Thomas Adamson, started abusing the man when he was 13 years old. The abuse continued for five more years, even after the priest was moved out of the diocese.

What Adamson did to this young man, the pain that he has caused him, is totally reprehensible. It was an abuse of his authority and moral standing.

But that's not all that's appalling about the trial.

Several officials of the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul have taken the stand. They testified that Adamson's "problem" was known to them, but yet they were slow to do anything about it, if they did anything at all.

Adamson has admitted to sexual misconduct with boys from the Winona Diocese dating back to 1961. And his history was no secret to his superiors.

In 1964, while working as superintendent at a Catholic school in Caledonia, Minn., Adamson was reprimanded by the bishop for touching a male student. And, on the witness stand, former Bishop Loras Watters admitted to being aware of Adamson's history in 1973 — six years before Adamson began abusing the plaintiff.

Today's editorial

Yet no one did anything to defuse an explosive situation. The diocese knowingly allowed a man with a record of sexual abuse to continue to work in the presence of youths.

The question is one of culpability. The lawsuit filed claims that the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul were accessories to the abuse because, by their inaction, they allowed it to occur.

They are guilty of reckless endangerment; of that there is little question.

You can't put a dollar amount on the suffering that the victim has had to endure.

But all Catholics are also victims in this case. Our spiritual leaders have exposed themselves as petty bureaucrats more concerned with protecting their position than their parishioners.

The entire church has lost face, and that damage is irreparable. — Tim O'Brien, copy editor.

Winona Daily News-Journal, Nov. 29, 1980

Wealth of church disputed in abuse trial

By Donna Halvorsen
Staff Writer

The sexual abuse committed by the Rev. Thomas Adamson came down to an issue of dollars and cents Thursday as attorneys for one of his victims attempted to show that two Catholic dioceses have deep pockets to pay punitive damages for employing an unfit priest.

Church attorneys, meanwhile, attempted to persuade the Anoka County jury that while the church's assets may look substantial on paper, most of the money is tied up in property or its use is restricted.

Bloomington accountant Kevin Bergman estimated the assets of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis at \$43.3 million, including \$18.3 million in property and \$13.7 million in unrestricted funds.

He estimated the assets of the Diocese of Winona at \$8.9 million, including \$4.5 million worth of real estate and \$2.2 million in unrestricted funds.

Both figures were based on audited financial statements provided by the church bodies.

The real estate figures were based on the purchase costs of churches, schools and other buildings, many of them built decades ago. Judge Phyllis Jones did not allow plaintiff's attorney Mark Wendorf to ask Bergman about their present value.

Wendorf and attorney Jeffrey Anderson represent a 24-year-old Columbia Heights man who is seeking damages from both dioceses for psychological injury stemming from eight years of abuse by Adamson. The abuse began when the victim was a 13-year-old altar boy in Adamson's Columbia Heights parish.

Adamson continued on page 5B

Adamson Continued from page 1B

When Anderson argues the case on Monday, he will ask the jury to award part of the dioceses' assets to the young man to punish the church bodies for continuing to employ Adamson after he had abused other boys.

The dioceses have admitted negligence but say they are not guilty of deliberately employing an unfit priest or of being willfully indifferent to the victim's rights and safety.

Although there is a \$400,000 limit on compensatory damages for emotional distress, there is no limit on punitive damages under Minnesota law.

The theory behind punitive damages is to punish wrongdoers according to their ability to pay. Therefore, Jones, who earlier had issued a ruling allowing the attorneys to seek punitive damages, allowed them to present information about the assets of both dioceses.

John Hoffman, representing the Twin Cities archdiocese, and George Restovich, representing the Winona diocese, brought church officials to the witness stand to talk about the good things the church does with its money, from resettling Southeast Asian refugees to running schools and providing chaplains in hospitals and prisons.

Andrew Eisenzimmer, also representing the archdiocese, questioned some of the assets cited by Bergman, including \$2.5 million in an overfunded pension system that Eisenzimmer said could not be withdrawn for any other use.

Also yesterday, vocational rehabilitation counselor Jan Lowe testified that the victim in the case is able to work, although his earning capacity has been cut in half because of a work-related shoulder injury that has required eight operations.

Lowe said she did not consider him to be college material because of low reading, spelling and math skills but said he would be able to do light-duty work in an office or factory.

The case will go to the jury Monday after closing arguments by the attorneys and Jones' instructions to the jury.

The jury will have three suits on which to deliberate: separate cases by the victim against the Winona diocese and the Twin Cities archdiocese, and a suit by the Winona diocese against Adamson. A suit in which the victim's parents were seeking damages for emotional distress from the archdiocese was dismissed by Jones on Wednesday.

Adamson, 57, lives in Wisconsin and is no longer working as a priest. Three other sexual abuse suits against him have been settled and one is pending in Ramsey County.

Letters to the Editor

Adamson jury misdirected in its decision

I have been following the reports and outcome of the Father Adamson sex abuse trial, and I am appalled at the damages awarded by the jury. While in no way do I condone Father Adamson's actions, I feel the jury is misdirected in their decision.

It appears the jury found the church guilty because the church did not act like the jury expects. The Catholic Church, and other churches, has not, does not, and I hope never will, act like the jury. The jury looks for repayment of a debt to society but the church treats wrongdoing as a sin against God and reconciliation and punishment for the wrongdoing should be kept between that individual and God.

It is a philosophy based on prayer and trust, not on fault and punishment. It does not preclude legal prosecution on an individual for their action against society. Prudent action still calls for protection of society from repetitive actions, but that protection should also be based on

understanding and trust with the individual concerned. Obviously, that philosophy did not work in this case, but I do not believe the jury should condemn this philosophy on this case alone. How many times has the jury's philosophy failed in allowing guilty criminals to go free because of procedural technicalities, allowing repeat offenders to return to society to continue their pattern of crime, and destroying the lives and families from unjust punishment.

Secondly, money is not a proper medium in which to assess damages. In our society, individuals and most organizations strive to earn and accumulate money. Money seems to be the measurement of success or failure, in these cases money is an appropriate form of punishment. Except for a few evangelistic organizations where raising money is primary, today's churches use money to help others, not measure success.

Money given to the church is used to support the organization that

teaches us about God, helps those in need in our society and others throughout the world, and educates our children. As a contributing Catholic I am upset that the money I have given may not reach its intended purpose but instead be directed to "Send a message to the church" and be paid out as punitive damages.

Lastly, I hope an appeal is successful and charges against the church are dropped or substantially reduced. If, however, the court does uphold these charges and the punishment is monetary, I would ask that this money be paid to charitable causes instead of punitive damages.

We are all ashamed of what has happened and certainly want nothing like this to happen in the future, but please let us have reasonableness and understanding prevail to make the best of this bad situation.

Thomas Gauthier
Box 69
Zumbro Falls

Rochester
P-B
12/4/90

City/Region

Jury scheduled to begin Adamson deliberations

Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — Two Catholic dioceses should pay \$5.6 million in damages for failing to remove from duty a former Rochester priest church officials knew was sexually molesting young boys, the plaintiff's attorney said.

The Rev. Thomas Adamson's long-term and frequent abuse of the victim, who was 13 when it began, "had irrevocably twisted and distorted" the boy's emotional growth, attorney Jeffrey Anderson told an Anoka County District Court jury during closing arguments Monday.

But attorneys for the dioceses and Adamson said damages should not exceed \$326,000. They have admitted they are partly responsible for the man's psychological problems but denied that they willfully employed an unfit priest.

"We made a good-faith effort to deal with a situation we didn't quite understand," said John Hoffman, attorney for the Arch-

diocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. "We didn't know what it means to have the disease of pedophilia."

Anderson asked for more than \$2 million in damages to compensate his client, now 24, for his past and future therapy costs, lost earnings, pain, disability, embarrassment and emotional distress. He sought an additional \$3.5 million in punitive damages, saying the dioceses were more concerned about protecting Adamson and the church's image than they were about the priest's continued victimization of children.

"They were successful in protecting their image for many years," he said. "They were successful in protecting this priest for many years."

The six-member civil jury was scheduled to return this morning to begin its deliberations.

The victim and his parents have alleged throughout the five-week trial that the Diocese of

Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis showed willful indifference by failing to remove Adamson from duty when they knew about Adamson's 20-year history of abusing boys.

Hoffman said the church's biggest mistake was to believe Adamson, not knowing that a pedophile, a person sexually attracted to children, "will cover up, he will lie, he will not be straight with you."

"We believed our priest," Hoffman said. "That was a human error. But we were never, ever willfully indifferent."

Hoffman, George Restovich, a Rochester attorney for the Diocese of Winona, and Theodore Collins, attorney for Adamson, suggested damages ranging from \$200,000 to \$326,000.

Collins said Adamson, 57, has been "banished from both the diocese and the archdiocese and can never work as a priest again."

Attorney asks \$5 million for man abused by Adamson as a boy

By Donna Halvorsen
Staff Writer

A St. Paul attorney asked for more than \$5 million in damages Monday for a Columbia Heights man who was sexually abused for eight years by the Rev. Thomas Adamson.

Jeffrey Anderson likened Adamson to the Ford Pinto, describing him as a "defective" priest who was "entered into the stream of religious commerce" without warning, leaving behind a trail of victims.

"If ever there was a case in this state or in this country for punitive damages, here it lies," Anderson told the Anoka County District Court jury before it was given the case for deliberation. "It cries for that remedy in civil law."

Adamson has admitted to abusing the Columbia Heights man, starting when the man was a 13-year-old altar boy in the priest's parish.

Anderson asked for more than \$2 million in damages to compensate his client, now 24, for his past and future therapy costs, lost earnings, pain, disability, embarrassment and emotional distress. He sought an additional \$3.5 million in punitive damages, saying two Catholic dioceses were more concerned about protecting Adamson and the church's image than they were about the priest's continued victimization of children.

"They were successful in protecting their image for many years," he said. "They were successful in protecting this priest for many years."

Attorneys for the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis admitted that the church bodies were guilty of negligence for continuing to place Adamson in parishes after reports of abuse surfaced. But they vigorously denied that they were guilty of "willful indifference" to the rights and safety of others, the standard for punitive

damages.

"We made a good-faith effort to deal with a situation we didn't quite understand," said archdiocese attorney John Hoffman. "We didn't know what it means to have the disease of pedophilia."

Hoffman said the church's biggest mistake was to believe Adamson, not knowing that a pedophile, a person sexually attracted to children, "will cover up, he will lie, he will not be straight with you."

"We believed our priest," Hoffman said. "That was a human error. But we were never, ever willfully indifferent."

Hoffman, George Restovich, attorney for the Diocese of Winona, and Theodore Collins, attorney for Adamson, suggested damages ranging from \$200,000 to \$326,000.

Adamson, 57, who now works as a hotel desk clerk in Wisconsin, was

brought into the case as a defendant by the Winona Diocese. Collins said he has been "banished from both the diocese and the archdiocese and can never work as a priest again."

The attorneys' daylong arguments capped an unusual five-week trial that is only the third of its kind in the country, and the first in which Catholic Church bodies have faced the possibility of punitive damages for sexual misconduct by a priest. In two previous trials, victims of a Louisiana priest were awarded \$1.1 million and \$1.8 million in compensatory damages in 1986 and 1987.

The six-member civil jury will return this morning to begin its deliberations. The verdict must be unanimous if it is reached in the first six hours of deliberations. Agreement of five jurors is required after that.

Judge Phyllis Jones told the jurors that six of the 21 questions on the verdict form have been answered for them by the attorneys' admissions

that Adamson sexually abused the young man and that the church bodies were negligent in failing to deal adequately with his sexual deviance.

She said that the jury will have to decide whether the victim was negligent in allowing Adamson to have sexual contact with him after his 18th birthday, but that he legally could not have consented to sexual contact before his 18th birthday. The jury is also being asked to decide whether the young man's parents were negligent in the care and treatment of their son.

Hoffman quoted the young man's father as saying that he turned his son over to Adamson when he could no longer handle him, but the attorney described both the young man's and his parents' share of responsibility for his psychological injury as minimal.

He and Restovich said the church bodies will pay for the damage done by Adamson's abuse but should not

be held responsible for the young man's alcoholism, for family turmoil caused by his brother's alcoholism and for a behavior disorder that began early in life.

Anderson said Adamson introduced the boy to alcohol at the age of 13 and "pushed him along" the path toward alcoholism. He also said the priest twisted the boy's psyche and arrested his development, causing permanent damage and continuing problems in sexual relationships, work and school.

"Short of murder, perhaps nothing is worse than what he did," Anderson said.

Star Tribune / Tuesday, Dec. 4, 1990

Sex abuse victim wants \$5.6 million in damages

Winona Daily News 12/5/90

Jury deliberates in Adamson trial

Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — A civil jury began deliberating Tuesday whether two Catholic dioceses should pay \$5.6 million in damages for failing to remove from duty a priest church who was sexually molesting young boys.

The Rev. Thomas Adamson's long-term and frequent abuse of the victim, who was 13 when it began, "had irrevocably twisted and distorted" the boy's emotional growth, attorney Jeffrey Anderson told a six-member Anoka County District Court jury during closing arguments Monday.

The jury deliberated all day without reaching a verdict, Anderson said. Deliberations will resume Wednesday, he said.

Anderson asked for more than \$2 million in damages to compensate his client, now 24, for his past and future therapy costs, lost

earnings, pain, disability, embarrassment and emotional distress. He sought an additional \$3.5 million in punitive damages, saying the dioceses were more concerned about protecting Adamson and the church's image than they were about the priest's continued victimization of children.

"They were successful in protecting their image for many years," he said Monday. "They were successful in protecting this priest for many years."

The victim and his parents have alleged throughout the five-week trial that the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis showed willful indifference by failing to remove Adamson from duty when they knew about Adamson's 20-year history of abusing boys.

Attorneys for the dioceses have admitted that they are partly responsible for the man's psychological problems but denied that they willfully employed an unfit

priest.

"We made a good-faith effort to deal with a situation we didn't quite understand," said archdiocese attorney John Hoffman. "We didn't know what it means to have the disease of pedophilia."

Hoffman said the church's biggest mistake was to believe Adamson, not knowing that a pedophile, a person sexually attracted to children, "will cover up, he will lie, he will not be straight with you."

"We believed our priest," Hoffman said. "That was a human error. But we were never, ever willfully indifferent."

Hoffman, George Restovich, attorney for the Diocese of Winona, and Theodore Collins, attorney for Adamson, suggested damages ranging from \$200,000 to \$326,000.

Collins said Adamson, 57, has been "banished from both the diocese and the archdiocese and can never work as a priest again."

No verdict in Adamson trial

Winona Daily News / 12/6/90

Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — Jurors finished a second day of deliberations Wednesday without reaching a verdict in a civil trial against two Catholic dioceses for their failure to dismiss a priest who molested boys.

The suit was brought by a 24-year-old man who said the Rev.

Thomas Adamson began abusing him when the victim was 13. The abuse lasted eight years, the victim said.

Closing arguments were heard Monday and the Anoka County District Court jury began deliberating Tuesday. They are to resume deliberations at 8:45 a.m.

Thursday, said the victim's attorney, Jeffrey Anderson.

Anderson asked for more than \$5 million in damages, saying the dioceses were more concerned about protecting Adamson and the church's image than they were about the priest's continued victimization of children.

StarTribune

SATURDAY/December 8/1990

NEWSPAPER OF THE T

Priest's victim gets \$3.5 million

Church says it will appeal ruling

By Donna Halvorsen
Staff Writer

An Anoka County jury awarded more than \$3.5 million Friday to a former Columbia Heights altar boy who was sexually abused by the Rev. Thomas Adamson for eight years.

It was the largest jury award in the country to a sexual abuse victim of a priest, and involved the first assessment of punitive damages against any Catholic church body in such a case.

The 24-year-old victim wept when the verdict was read and hugged his attorneys, Jeffrey Anderson and Mark Wendorf, both of St. Paul.

"I'm glad I can get this over with and can get on with my life," he said.

The award included \$2 million in punitive damages against the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and \$700,000 in punitive damages against the Diocese of Winona.

The jury found that both showed "a

willful indifference or deliberate lack of concern for the rights and safety of others," and that they needed to be punished and deterred from future misconduct.

Anderson said the verdict "truly sent a message" to Catholic dioceses across the country that sexual abuse by priests should be dealt with swiftly, and that abusive priests should not be protected by the church.

Adamson continued on page 11A

Adamson

Continued from page 1A

"For 25 years, the church was protecting this priest, who was unfit, who was abusing children," he said. Adamson has admitted that he abused a number of boys in the dozen parishes that he served in southern Minnesota and the Twin Cities.

Archdiocese attorney Andrew Eisenzimmer of St. Paul said the verdict will be appealed. He said the punitive damages were unjustified because Archbishop John Roach acted appropriately, and were unnecessary because the church has responded to the problem of sexual abuse.

At a news conference Roach said the jury's award of punitive damages "ignores the actions we took nearly a decade ago." He said that while church officials have acknowledged that their efforts were inadequate, "we also believe we acted in good faith. We followed the best advice available at the time."

The Rev. Kevin McDonough, archdiocese chancellor, said that treatment for abusive priests is now longer and tougher, that parishioners are informed about a priest's history if he is placed back in a parish after treatment, and that the church is quicker to believe people who say they've been abused.

The jury's total award was \$3.555 million, including \$400,000 for past compensatory damages and \$455,000 for future compensatory damages. The damages include therapy expenses, lost earnings, pain, disability, embarrassment and emotional distress.

McDonough said the archdiocese's insurance will cover the compensa-



Andrew Eisenzimmer

tory damages, but the church will have to find a way to pay the punitive damages if they are upheld. "We were very surprised by the punitive damages," he said. "We had never seriously considered that this was going to happen."

Anderson contended during the trial that the church was more interested in protecting Adamson and its own image than in preventing the abuse of victims. He said Bishop Loras Watters moved Adamson out of the Diocese of Winona when his abuse became known there, and that Roach placed him in Twin Cities parishes despite knowing that Adamson had abused boys.

The diocese and the archdiocese admitted they were negligent in dealing with Adamson, but said they did what they could with him, given their knowledge of a little-understood problem.

The victim was a 13-year-old altar boy in Adamson's Columbia Heights



Jeffrey Anderson

parish when the abuse began in 1979. He told the jury that his sexual contact with Adamson took place five or six times a day in the early years and continued until 1987, with less frequency after he graduated from high school in 1984.

Experts testified that he suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder or a personality disorder or both. His therapist said the abuse left him "just hanging on," suffering from depression, alcoholism and compulsive sexual behavior.

The jurors declined to comment on their verdict.

The case had attracted widespread attention because it was only the third sexual abuse case involving a priest to go to trial. Juries awarded

Adamson continued on page 12A

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Adamson

Continued from page 11A

\$1.25 million and \$1.8 million in the other cases, both involving a Louisiana priest.

"It's got national implications and everybody's watching it," Anderson said as he awaited the verdict. Anderson specializes in sexual abuse cases against clergy, psychologists and other authority figures. He said he has more than 75 clergy cases pending around the country.

Six cases have been filed involving Adamson. Four, involving abuse that occurred in Twin Cities parishes, have been settled for undisclosed amounts. In addition to the Anoka County case, another case involving Adamson is scheduled for trial in St. Paul in January.

Adamson, 57, was one of 12 children who grew up on a farm near Rochester, Minn. He testified that he was abused by a farm hand for two years as a teenager. He said that he began abusing boys in 1961, three years into his priesthood, when he began a relationship with a youth in Adrian, Minn., that lasted 12 years.

Adamson received inpatient and outpatient treatment for his problem over the years. He no longer functions as a priest. He lives near Eau Claire, Wis., and works as a hotel desk clerk.

Judge Phyllis Jones allowed testimony about only a few of Adamson's other victims, those who reported the abuse to church officials. But Anderson said he and Wendorf have identified 28 victims.

Adamson, who attended the entire trial, was not in the courtroom when the verdict was read.

By taking the case to trial, the diocese risked further exposure of a problem that had already generated substantial bad publicity. But the attorneys agreed this case was more difficult to settle because the settlement demanded was greater. The abuse was worse than in the other cases in both its duration and its frequency, Anderson said.

The abuse was not revealed until last year. The victim, who works as a convenience store clerk and is engaged to be married, said yesterday that he kept quiet "because I was ashamed of myself."

"Hopefully, I can get married and settle down," he said.

The young man's mother said she felt "like something was lifted off me."

She said she had faith in the six jurors, who heard evidence for five weeks and deliberated for nearly four days. "I believed they were a person like me, down-to-earth," she said.

"I hope this sets an example for the whole United States," said the young man's father.

Victim to receive \$3.5 million

Winona Diocese negligent in Adamson case

Associated Press

ANOKA, Minn. — A jury on Friday awarded about \$3.5 million to a sexual abuse victim in his lawsuit against Catholic church officials in the Twin Cities and Winona.

According to undisputed testimony in the case, the plaintiff was abused during his boyhood by the Rev. Thomas Adamson, who was pastor at a Columbia Heights church.

The Anoka County jury said the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis and the Diocese of Winona together were 85 percent negligent and the plaintiff and his parents were each 5 percent negligent.

Jurors decided on punitive damages against the archdiocese of \$2 million and punitive dam-

ages against the Winona diocese of \$700,000.

The jury also decided on \$854,000 in compensatory damages.

The victim and his parents have alleged throughout the five-week trial that the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis showed willful indifference by failing to remove Adamson from duty when they knew about Adamson's 20-year history of abusing boys.

Attorneys for the dioceses had admitted they are partly responsible for the man's psychological problems but denied they willfully employed an unfit priest.

Adamson had admitted sexual misconduct with boys in the Winona Diocese beginning in 1961 and

in the Twin Cities archdiocese after his 1975 transfer.

The man's attorney, Jeffrey Anderson, had argued that Adamson's long-term and frequent abuse of a victim "irrevocably twisted and distorted" the boy's emotional growth.

Anderson asked for more than \$2 million in damages to compensate his client, who is now 24. He sought an additional \$3.5 million dollars in punitive damages.

The boy was 13 when the abuse began.

The plaintiff cried as the verdict was read and was still teary-eyed as he left the courtroom. When asked how he felt, he replied, "Nervous."

► Please see JURY/4A

Diocese of Winona to appeal decision

By Pat Daninger
Winona Daily News

The Diocese of Winona will appeal the decision Friday to award \$3.5 million to the plaintiff in the Father Thomas Adamson sexual abuse case.

In a short statement, Diocese of Winona Vicar General Father Gerald Mahon said:

"The Diocese of Winona remains adamant that it never engaged in willful, malicious, deliberate and intentional disregard of the rights and safeties of the plaintiff or others.

"I believe the record is clear that the Diocese of Winona has attempted to obtain professional psychiatric treatment for Father Adamson, and was assured of Father Adamson's fitness for service.

"In this regard, the diocese has made mistakes in its attempts to be fair to one of its priests, but it did not act recklessly or with malicious or willful regard of anyone's safety.

"We will therefore be consider-

► Please see APPEAL/4A

► Appeal

From page 1A

ing an appeal of the verdict with respect to the punitive damage award."

Mahon said the diocese would appeal because the awarding of punitive damages implies they acted recklessly.

"We would oppose (punitive damages), no matter what the amount," he said.

The diocese was "very willing" to pay compensatory damages to assist the plaintiff in treatment, he said.

Mahon said the diocese would contact its legal counsel to determine when the appeal would be made.

In an article entitled "The hurt of abuse" in the November 1990 issue of the Courier, the Diocese of Winona's newspaper, Bishop John G. Vlazny addressed the debilitating effect of a court judgment against the diocese:

"If the diocese and/or a particular parish were assessed a heavy penalty as a result of a court judgment, diocesan and/or that parish's holding could be severely diminished or eliminated. Funds and assets that belong to the other parishes and institutions of the diocese are not affected...The diocese and the particular parish involved would be financially debilitated by such a judgment," Vlazny wrote.

► Jury

From page 1A

Anderson, when asked how his client felt about the verdict, replied, "He's going through a vindication. Now he's been told he's been vindicated. Having this over with will be very therapeutic."

Anderson said the jury "did what we asked, to compensate our client, and sent a message that (this kind of action) should stop."

He added, "I think the verdict sends a real significant message and I'm in no way disappointed."

Andrew Eisenzimmer, an attorney who represented the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, said an appeal was possible. "You have to consider appeal. We'll talk with the archbishop," he said.

Eisenzimmer also said the archdiocese has taken steps to prevent recurrence of any such

State/Metro news

Diocese to appeal punitive damages in Adamson case

Associated Press

Winona, Minn.

The Diocese of Winona says it will appeal punitive damages of \$700,000 awarded by a jury to a man who was sexually abused during his boyhood by a Catholic priest.

The Rev. Gerald Mahon, vicar general for the diocese, said that it is willing to pay compensatory damages to help pay for the victim's treatment but that it is appealing the punitive damages because it implies that the diocese acted recklessly.

"We would oppose (punitive damages) no matter the amount," Mahon said.

The Anoka County District Court jury decided Friday that the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Diocese of Winona together were 85 percent negligent for the abuse of the man by the Rev. Thomas Adamson. The jury awarded about \$3.5 million to the man, including \$855,000 in compensatory damages.

It decided on punitive damages of \$2 million against the archdiocese and \$700,000 against the diocese. Archdiocese officials are considering an appeal.

The victim had alleged that the diocese and archdiocese showed willful indifference by failing to remove Adamson from duty when they knew about his 20-year history of abusing boys.

"The Diocese of Winona remains adamant that it never engaged in willful, malicious, deliberate and intentional disregard of the rights and safeties of the plaintiff or others," Mahon said in a prepared statement.

"I believe the record is clear that the Diocese of Winona has attempted to obtain professional psychiatric treatment for Father Adamson, and was assured of Father Adamson's fitness for service. In this regard, the diocese has made mistakes in its attempts to be fair to one of its priests, but it did not act recklessly or with malicious or willful regard of anyone's safety."

ry/Region

Diocese undecided how settlement to be paid

By CHRIS HERLINGER
Post-Bulletin Staff Writer

It could be two years before the Diocese of Winona will have to consider paying at least \$700,000 in punitive damages to a 24-year-old man who was sexually abused by the Rev. Thomas Adamson.

Attorney George Restovich of Rochester, representing the Winona Diocese, said the diocese has not decided how it would pay the judgment because it plans to appeal a jury's decision that was issued earlier this month.

Because of the pending appeals, there are no plans to postpone any building projects in the diocese or to sell any property, he said.

The jury awarded the man about \$3.4 million in damages. Of that amount, \$750,000 is compensatory damages which will be divided between the two defendants, the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis and the Winona Diocese, and paid by insurance carriers, Restovich said.

Punitive damages total \$2 million for the archdiocese and \$700,000 for the Winona Diocese. Those damages will be appealed, he said.

However, if legal appeals fail, the diocese would be forced to seek financial assistance from its members, Restovich said.

Archbishop John Roach said in a letter to Twin Cities priests and deacons that no money from parish collections will be taken

There are no plans to postpone any building projects in the diocese, nor are there plans to sell any property that the diocese owns, he said.

to pay for the judgment.

The church has admitted that it is liable for compensatory damages to the man who had been abused by Adamson, formerly of Rochester, during the 1970s and '80s.

"I want to assure you and your parishioners that regardless of the outcome (of the appeal) ... no funds will be taken from parish assessments or from contributions to the Annual Catholic Appeal," Roach's letter says.

Restovich said the dioceses plan to make three requests of the court: ask for a new trial; reduce damages; and to set aside the verdict and ask that no punitive damages be paid.

The dioceses contend that they were not willfully negligent. Specifically, the Winona Diocese has contended that it attempted to get counseling for Adamson and that experts said he could return to parish work.

The appeals process could take

up to two years, Restovich said. As a result, it's premature to discuss how the diocese might pay for such damages, he said.

Financial statements introduced in the trial indicated that the Winona Diocese has about \$9 million in assets, about half of that in church property within the diocese. The diocese also has up to \$600,000 in cash, which is used for general operating expenses.

Paying even \$700,000 would essentially wipe out the diocese's operating budget, Restovich said.

"One thing that is real clear to me is that we cannot pay (the damages)," Restovich said. "We're not General Motors. We don't have quarterly operating profits of \$400 million. We're a church."

Jerry Klein, an archdiocese spokesman, said the church wanted to calm possible fears among parishioners that they might have to pay.

However, Klein did concede that "it's logical to assume," that money to pay such a judgment ultimately comes from parishioners or donors who give money to the church.

Adamson's abuse of the man began when the man was 13 years old and occurred when Adamson served a parish in Columbia Heights, a Twin Cities suburb. Adamson was formerly a priest at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Rochester.

(This story contains information from the Associated Press.)

by Jason Groen

and Angie student B.J. ast week to of the Con- non-use of

Season's Greetings

TA000299

City/Region

Personnel data sought on former teacher in sex case

By JANICE GREGORSON
Post-Bulletin Staff Writer

The attorney for a Rochester woman who says she was sexually assaulted by a teacher while she was a student at Lourdes High School has asked the court to order another school district to release personnel information on the teacher.

Attorney Jack Hanson, representing the woman, wants the information in an effort to show Lourdes was negligent in hiring Rodney Wayne Tafelski, a former Lourdes teacher and wrestling coach.

The woman claims Tafelski sexually assaulted her several times between September 1986 and February 1987. She said she was 15 and a sophomore at Lourdes when the assaults began and said Tafelski used his position of authority to seduce her.

The multicount lawsuit claims Lourdes and the Diocese of Winona carelessly failed to supervise Tafelski.

Tafelski pleaded guilty to four counts of criminal sexual conduct in Olmsted District Court and was sentenced to an inpatient treatment program at St. Peter Regional Treatment Center for sexual aggressive people.

Hanson asked Olmsted District Judge John Gowan for an order forcing the Rosemount School District to release personnel information on Tafelski, who taught at the middle school there the year before being hired by Lourdes in 1985. Hanson told Gowan he has reason to believe there is information in Tafelski's file that would have been a "warning signal" to Lourdes not to hire the teacher. He said, too, that there is evidence Lourdes

didn't even call Rosemount to check on Tafelski's references before hiring him.

Tafelski's attorney, Robert Spelhaug, opposed the motion, saying the information is irrelevant. He also claims that the information would not have been available to Lourdes prior to Tafelski's hiring because it is privileged under the state data privacy act.

George Restovich, attorney for Lourdes, did not appear at Wednesday's court hearing, but sent a letter saying he did not oppose the motion.

Gowan also received a letter from the Rosemount School District saying it would not oppose an order to release the information.

Gowan took the request under advisement.

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Rochester P-B
W. 5-1-71 p. 1

1991

54 PAGES

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Kurdish refugees crowd onboard vehicles leaving the mountains and heading for an allied refugee camp near Zakho on Tuesday.

AP LaserPhoto

At one point in the day, he said, thousands of people and their families were moving through the checkpoint.

yanked Volkswagens with flat tires.

"It's a God-awful parade," said one U.S. Army lieutenant.

Award cut in abuse case

Damages against church reduced

From staff reports, wire services

A jury's award to the sex-abuse victim of a former Rochester area priest has been reduced by a district judge.

Anoka County District Judge Phyllis Jones on Tuesday slashed a \$2.7 million punitive damages award to \$187,000 while leaving intact an \$855,000 compensatory judgment for expenses, suffering and humiliation.

"Defendants have been punished by the attention to this case in the way of reputation and public trust," she wrote.

Jones reduced the amount of punitive damages against the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis to about \$50,000, from \$2 million. She reduced the damages against the Diocese of Winona to about \$137,000, from \$700,000.

TA000301

the mountain. It was a beautiful sight," he said.

Buses pulled broken-down compact cars, which in turn turn. "They sped out. Now they're limping back."

Jerry Anderson, who represents the Columbia Heights man abused for years by the Rev. Thomas Adamson, said he would appeal the reduced punitive damages award to the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

The victim's attorney called the reduced judgment "like taking 50 dollars from a multimillion (dollar) corporation" and vowed to appeal the new ruling.

In December, a jury awarded \$3.5 million to a Columbia Heights man who was sexually abused for years by Adamson. That award was appealed by attorneys for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the Winona diocese, who asked Jones to set aside the compensatory and punitive damages. The attorneys asked for a judgment notwithstanding the jury verdict. As other options, they also asked for a new trial or a reduction of the award.

A civil jury decided that the plaintiff should receive about \$830,000 in compensation for expenses, suffering and humiliation and a total of \$2.7 million in punitive damages — \$2 million from the archdiocese and \$700,000 from the Winona diocese.

The Rev. Gerald Mahon, vicar general of the Winona diocese, said they are pleased the judge has reviewed the matter and tempered the jury's punitive damage award.

"The diocese feels great sadness over the fact that the plaintiff suffered sexual abuse by one of its priests," Mahon said, adding the diocese has always wanted to be reasonable and responsible in compensating the victim for injury.

However, he said, the diocese remains troubled that punitive damages should be awarded against it and any other religious corporation "whose entire existence is motivated to serve human kind."

Adamson is a former priest at St. Francis Catholic Church in Rochester.

George Restovich, Rochester attorney representing the diocese, contended at the trial that the diocese never engaged in willful, malicious, deliberate or intentional disregard of the rights and safety of the plaintiff or others.

It rains, it pours

April showers add drop to area's rainfall bucket

By ALETA CAPELLE
Post-Bulletin Staff Writer

Southeastern Minnesota has received more than 50 inches of rain during the past 15 months, a total nearly 20 inches above normal for that period.

Actually, the 20 inches above normal almost meets the normal rainfall for an entire year. About 28.25 inches of rain falls in an average year.

The National Weather Service at Rochester Municipal Airport said above-normal precipitation has been recorded during 10 of the last 15 months.

From February 1990 through this April, precipitation totaled 52.58 inches. That is 19.51 above normal for the period.

Last month brought the greatest departure from normal precipitation since July 1990. That month, rainfall was 8.29 inches, which is 4.47 above normal.

April's showers delivered 5.25 inches of rain, a total that is 2.75 inches above normal for that month.

Tuesday's rainfall of 0.07 inch solidified the month in third place for the most rainfall during any April on record.

The wettest April was last year when 6.47 inches of rain was measured at the weather service. The second-rainiest April was 1929 with 5.34 inches, and the fourth-rainiest

"This is just a wet interlude, but the general dry pattern should be with us until about 1997."

**Bruce Watson,
meteorologist**

was 1954 with 4.68 inches.

It could be said it has been a fitting turnaround from the dry weather that plagued the area for so long.

But consulting meteorologist Bruce Watson said the large-scale drought pattern in the Upper Midwest has not reversed itself. "This is just a wet interlude, but the general dry pattern should be with us until about 1997."

Watson said a 10-year drought cycle exists in the Midwest. He predicts a general wet pattern will continue for at least the next six weeks and summer rainfalls should be close to normal.

Record high temperatures were shattered on three days in April, the 5th, 6th and 7th, according to the weather service. On April 5, the temperature was 83, breaking the old mark of 76 degrees set in 1929. On April 6, a high of 89 smashed 1954's record of 78. The high of 83 on April 7 broke 1931's record of 76.

IL

okback

degrees, April 6

April 10

3.3, 3.7 above normal

inches, 2.75 above normal

station:

27

4 inches on April 12

4.5

fallin'...

ation

Departure from norm
+5.65

+12.17

+2.13

+3.56

(ate)

FB Graphic

prime rate; indicators up

lowered the key lending rate.

The Fed on Tuesday cut the discount rate, interest it charges banks for loans, one-half percentage point to 5.5 percent, the lowest in 15 years.

Also today, the Commerce Department said the government's chief economic forecasting gauge rose 0.5 percent in March, its second consecutive monthly advance.

The February advance had ended a string of six losses stretching back to July, when the index was flat.

That's when the current recession started, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

The index is designed to forecast economic activity six to nine months in advance.

City/Region

Speaker: Church must not ignore abuse

By PAULINE WALLE
Lifestyle Special Writer

WINONA — The church has developed a reputation for covering up rather than ministering to victims of sexual harassment and child sexual abuse, a specialist told Catholics attending a workshop in Winona.

Kathleen Kelley said church workers must speak up before they "get so used to it that what's unhealthy becomes normal to us."

The founding member of Grace Institute in Shrewsbury, Mass., was addressing the Bishop's Workshops on Pastoral Services at St. Mary's College. She called sexual harassment a justice question and a misuse of authority. The Catholic Church has a history of male dominance, and in the midst of stress the typical response is to hold on to that power and

authority, Kelley said.

Directed mainly at women, unwanted verbal or physical harassment robs their dignity and contaminates the work environment, she said.

Complainants may be told to "lighten up" or "he's just like that" and left to feel it is their problem. But Kelley urged them to get help in taking a stand. "We live in ignorance until someone shows us the light," she said.

In speaking to audiences across the country Kelley uses a disclaimer: "We'll assume these things don't happen in the Winona Diocese but we'll just talk about them in case you need help," she said Tuesday. But before long several women related incidents within their church jobs or families.

Kelley said healthy church workers have self-esteem, know their boundaries and have a life outside the church.

"Priests will live celibately if they have healthy relationships with other adults," she said. "Isolation can be a problem for clergy."

In speaking about child sexual abuse and pedophilia she said such issues come in waves and the latest wave is survivors of satanic ritual abuse. Another disturbing trend: sexual abuse by children only slightly older than their victims.

Kelley said the answer to harassment and sexual abuse in the church is to "educate, educate" and "Be aware: don't ignore."

"The church is not perceived as a resource for healing," she said. But she points out the Department of Health, Education and Welfare lists 31 recommendations for dealing with child abuse and 27 of them list the church as a place to seek help.

The 40-workshop event was initiated by Most Rev. John Vlazny, bishop of Winona. It marked the 100th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's encyclical letter on the church's social service and action programs. The involvement of both clergy and laypeople at the same sessions is a new direction for these seminars. About 400 of the 1,000 people employed in the diocese attended.

Keynote was Most Rev. James W. Malone who talked on "Proclaiming Our Best-Kept Secret: Catholic Social Values for the 1990s."

Today's sessions include an open forum on sexual conduct and ministry. The speaker is Rochester attorney George Restovich, diocesan attorney during the case of former Rochester priest Thomas Adamson, who was accused in civil court cases of sexually abusing boys in several Minnesota churches.

Diocese drafts sex-abuse policy

By PAULINE WALLE
Lifestyle Special Writer

WINONA — The attorney for the Winona Diocese said Wednesday that a new policy dictating that employees in the diocese be questioned about sexual abuse is not flawless but is a start toward protecting children.

George Restovich of Rochester was leading a workshop for Catholics on sexual conduct and ministry. He was legal counsel when the diocese was sued for not reporting sexual abuse by the Rev. Thomas Adamson, who served in Rochester and several other churches in the diocese.

Restovich called the new, seven-page policy a "liability prophylaxis." It is for all employees or applicants who would come in contact with children. It will require them

"We know some people who sign these papers and have a problem will lie to us. But it's a start."

George Restovich

to sign documents saying they had never been accused, arrested or convicted of sexual misconduct.

"We know some people who sign these papers and have a problem will lie to us," he said. "But it's a start."

The policy will make the rounds of clergy and lay employees for their reaction. Most Rev. John Vlazny, bishop of the 20-county diocese, or his designee will be responsible for implementing it.

Restovich said the document calls for suspending

someone accused of sexual misconduct until investigation, and firing or removal of the employee if abuse is proven.

Priests are considered priests for life but if it is recommended by experts, the bishop may take steps to remove him from office, Restovich said.

Part of the problem for the Winona Diocese, Restovich said, was that specialists didn't recommend Adamson be removed from the presence of children. After treatment, "We were assured that

Father Adamson didn't have any problems anymore and look what happened to us."

A reporting law already on the books requires church leaders to notify law enforcement or social services when they become aware of abusive behavior.

"It is important for us to understand our roles, and to try to make sure we don't do, or do something to permit, this kind of problem to continue," Restovich said. "We as a church and church leaders will be judged more harshly. There is no room for error here."

Adamson has been relieved of his duties and is living in Wisconsin. Although the diocese technically has no liability for him, Restovich said if he gets in trouble again, "The Diocese would still be sued because of the deep pockets

theory."

The children most likely to suffer from sexual abuse the most are those who have had problems all along, he said. "You won't see class presidents and 'A' students exhibiting signs of abuse."

A woman in the audience challenged him on the statement, saying that overachievers might not report abuse because of fear they won't be believed. It affects each child differently, she said.

He said each issue would be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Restovich said his concern for the future was the area of volunteers. He encouraged their talents and involvement in church activities but predicts there will be a big case somewhere in the country involving sexual abuse by a volunteer in the church.

Sex-abuse suits against clergy take toll on lawyer

By TONY KENNEDY

Associated Press Writer
MINNEAPOLIS — The more money attorney Jeffrey Anderson makes, the less he believes in organized religion.

Anderson is one of the nation's top specialists in sex-abuse lawsuits against clergy, experts in the field say. He has handled more than 100 cases in the past seven years and settled about 30 of them, earning more than \$15 million for his clients and millions more for himself.

Earlier this month, he filed the first sex-abuse lawsuit ever against a Roman Catholic bishop in the United States. The prelate, Bishop Joseph A. Ferrario of Honolulu, has repeatedly denied the accusation.

While his practice has made him rich, Anderson says it has also taken a psychological toll.

"I would very much like to be able to practice my own faith," said Anderson, who was raised Lutheran. "But there's nothing I have learned that has been faith-affirming."

"I deal with shattered lives and serious distortions of the human personality because of the serious abuse clergy members of all faiths inflict."

There are no reliable statistics on how many sex-abuse lawsuits have been filed against clergy, largely because court documents often are sealed as a condition of settlement.

Anderson, however, estimates that the Catholic Church and its insurers have paid more than \$300 million since 1985 to settle claims of sexual abuse by priests.

Mark E. Chopko, a lawyer for the U.S. Catholic Conference in Washington, D.C., said Anderson's estimate seems grossly inflated, but he said he knows of no estimate kept by the church.

Most of Anderson's lawsuits have been against Catholic priests. Observers within the church acknowledge that the Catholic hierarchy previously lacked understanding of priests with pedophilia, a disorder in which adults crave sex with children.

A decade or more ago, clergy



"I would very much like to be able to practice my own faith," said Jeffrey Anderson, who was raised Lutheran. "But there's nothing I have learned that has been faith-affirming."

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AP LaserPhoto

who were known sex offenders received counseling and customarily were given second chances because "their good intentions and mere convictions made you believe they would change," said Rev. John Malone, a priest and lawyer in St. Paul.

"Now, you don't put them back in the same surroundings," Malone said. "Now they realize some

people are addicted."

He said lawsuits brought by Anderson have helped all denominations focus on the problem. But while there have undoubtedly been cases of "real victimization," Malone said, some of the lawsuits contain allegations that are "way out of line."

While the merits of his lawsuits

are debated, Anderson's own reputation in the field is clear.

"I think probably more than any attorney in North America, Jeff is associated with suits against churches and church organizations for sexual abuse and misconduct," said psychologist Gary Schoener, executive director of the Walk-In Counseling Center in Minneapolis.

"Everyone's heard of Jeff," Catholic Conference attorney Chopko added.

David Clohessy, who has a sex-abuse lawsuit pending against a priest in Missouri, said he hired Anderson because he "combines that toughness with a real sensitivity."

"I feel very comfortable talk-

ing to Jeff," said Clohessy, a political consultant in St. Louis.

Schoener, an expert witness on behalf of victims and accused clergy members, said Anderson has remained "very sincere" about his now-lucrative cause.

"We get very few complaints about Jeff and it's very common for clients in these kinds of cases to start hating their attorneys," Schoener said. "It's not very cheap to employ him, but he'll also take the cases that aren't big-bucks cases."

Anderson, who works in a St. Paul law firm of about eight lawyers, takes cases on contingency and keeps up to 40 percent of any settlement.

A former public defender, his first sex-abuse case was a referral from a Catholic colleague who didn't have the stomach for attacking the church.

"I'm not intimidated by the power or the prestige of any institution," said Anderson, 44, a self-proclaimed former "hippie."

While investigating his first client's accusations against the Rev. Thomas Adamson, the priest admitted to a 20-year history of sexual abuse of boys in Minnesota. Anderson filed lawsuits on behalf of 10 others who contend Adamson abused them.

"When I realized how widespread and firm it was, they (the church) wanted to settle it for a huge amount of money, but I felt it couldn't be done because I would be part of their conspiracy of silence," Anderson said.

After one of those cases went to trial, a jury last year returned a \$3.55 million verdict, including \$2.7 million in punitive damages. A judge, however, slashed the punitive damages to \$187,000, and Anderson has appealed.

Anderson says he receives considerable hate mail from people who identify themselves as Christians. One such missive is framed in his office. "You are the scum maggot of this country."

"The ironic thing, if you ask me, is that the work I do is Christian," Anderson said. "For every suit we file, we help to bring change."

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La Crosse Tribune

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Catholics grapple with sex abuse

By GAYDA HOLLNAGEL
Of the Tribune staff

When the Rev. Bruce Ball was accused last fall in Clark County of fondling a teen-age boy, La Crosse diocesan officials removed Ball from his duties at St. Mary's parish in Colby.

Removing a priest from active ministry is now standard procedure in the diocese when priests or other workers are accused of sexually abusing children, said diocesan lawyer James Birnbaum.

But a St. Paul lawyer who specializes in sexual abuse cases said that while many dioceses, including La Crosse and Winona, have policies for dealing with sexual misconduct, a uniform, national policy is needed.

Jeffrey R. Anderson said last week lawsuits will continue until the National Conference of Catholic Bishops adopts a comprehensive policy for dealing with sexual malfeasance and applies it uniformly in every diocese.

"They have to acknowledge privately and publicly they have a problem. Until they do, it will continue to be a problem," he said.

Lloyd Rediger, a Roseville, Minn., author and consultant on sexual issues in ministry, estimates 10 to 15 percent of Protestant clergy engage sexual misconduct. Three to 4 percent are pedophiles involved in sexual abuse of children, he said.

Rediger said he knows of no statistics on Catholic clergy, but counselors in general believe they may have more problems with sexual misconduct than other clergy.

Ball, who pleaded no contest to the charges filed last fall in Clark County, this spring was accused in Jackson County on two felony charges of daring two boys to expose themselves.

Those charges were dismissed this month by a Jackson County Circuit judge on condition Ball not fight sentencing this fall in the Clark County case. He faces five years in prison.

Anderson said he has 140 cases of sexual misconduct pending against U.S. Catholic priests. He didn't know how many cases are pending nationwide but speculated they are in the hundreds.

Cases of sexual misconduct involving clergy draw more public interest than cases involving average citizens, Rediger said.

"It becomes exotic because we ask so much of clergy," he said.

Despite the publicity, few clergy of any denomination are involved in sexual mis-

TA000306

Officials: Abuse not as prevalent as it may seem

By GAYDA HOLLNAGEL
Of the Tribune staff

Sexual misconduct by priests may be a rare occurrence despite national reports that point to a surge of such incidents, La Crosse and Winona diocesan representatives say.

James Birnbaum, who handles legal matters for the La Crosse diocese, said some of the complaints recently publicized nationally date back as far as 20 or 30 years ago.

"It gives the impression that it's more prevalent than it is," Birnbaum said.

The Rev. Gerald Mahon, vicar general of the Winona diocese, agrees.

Mahon said he's handled fewer than one complaint a year on average during the five years he's held the diocesan post.

Mahon didn't specify the nature of the complaints, but he said some allegations were true and some were false.

In one instance, he said, the diocese was able to provide help for both the perpetrator and the victim.

Both Mahon and Birnbaum said dioceses have become more aware in recent years of how traumatic sexual abuse is for victims. For that reason, they said, when an incident occurs, dioceses now offer to help victims obtain counseling.

Accusations of sexual misconduct are

being made more frequently against people in all helping professions, not just priests, Birnbaum said. "It's doctors, it's lawyers, it's teachers, it's all kinds of professionals. Anybody who deals with people who have problems," he said.

Mahon said he doesn't believe celibacy is a factor in sexual misconduct by priests.

Sexual misconduct, or addictive patterns of any kind, occurs when people are unable to deal in a healthy way with their problems or their own sexuality, he said.

"The bigger question for priests to resolve is, 'Do I have healthy relationships and a healthy lifestyle?'" Mahon said.

Seminarians in the Winona diocese now receive counseling about sexual issues during their studies for the priesthood to help them form healthy attitudes, he said.

The seminarians coming in for training in recent years are "much more open about their personal struggles" and are quite willing to discuss their problems and concerns about sex, he said.

Birnbaum, who has defended several teachers, priests and other professionals charged in sexual misconduct cases, said part of the reason for the increase in cases is that people are more aware of sexual abuse issues.

Charges have all priests walking a thin line

Sexual misconduct charges against some priests have made all priests aware of the need for caution in their ministries, diocesan officials say.

"I think we've all become more careful, and sometimes that doesn't feel good," said the Rev. Gerald Mahon, vicar general of the Winona diocese.

Mahon said there is a "heightened awareness" among priests that even a casual hug or other innocent gesture or comment can be misconstrued.

Priests worry about being alone with

parishioners for any reason, including private counseling sessions, he said.

"As a minister you don't want to be overly cautious," Mahon said. "It's a thin line. I think priests are trying to learn how to walk that line."

The Rev. Michael Gorman, chancellor of the La Crosse diocese, said he also sees signs that priests are concerned about how their actions may be perceived. "Sometimes I hear people say, 'You can't even hug a kid anymore. You can't even pat them on the

back.'"

Priests also are more aware of the need to understand their own sexuality and develop healthy attitudes about it, Mahon said. He said a recent three-day workshop on sexuality offered by the Winona diocese drew 30 priests. The session was not mandatory but was offered as an opportunity for personal growth.

Mahon said lay people are aware of sexual misconduct issues, but he said he doesn't believe the awareness has made them more cautious in their relationships with priests.

Lawyer: Church tried to cover up priest's behavior

Last year, Twin Cities lawyer Jeffrey R. Anderson successfully won a case against the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese and the Winona diocese for incidents involving the Rev. Thomas Adamson. Adamson was convicted of molesting altar boys in several parishes in both dioceses including Caledonia and Rochester in the Winona diocese.

Among Anderson's most recent cases is the one against the Rev. James R. Porter, accused in Massachusetts and Minnesota of molesting more than 60

men and women over a 20-year period.

Anderson has charged that the dioceses attempted to cover up Porter's behavior by moving him from one parish to another.

Lloyd Rediger, a Roseville, Minn., author and consultant on sexual issues in ministry, said moving clergy who get into trouble from parish to parish has been common among most denominations, not just the Catholic church.

Rediger, who spent 19 years working for the Wisconsin Conference of

Churches as a confidential counselor for Protestant clergy and their families, said the popular misconception was that when a priest or minister committed some form of sexual malfeasance it was a mistake brought about by a moral lapse or temptation. "It was assumed that they'd learned their lesson and wouldn't do it again," Rediger said.

Anderson said the tradition of "silence and suppression" of sexual misconduct continues to be a problem in the Catholic church, even though some dioceses have begun programs to deal with the issue.

Hometown

SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE CHURCH

Last year's allegations prompted Winona diocese to adopt policy

By GAYDA HOLLNAGEL
Of the Tribune staff

WINONA, Minn. — Until about a year ago, the Diocese of Winona didn't have a written policy to follow when a priest or other employee was charged with sexual misconduct.

But last June, after the diocese lost a civil suit filed by a sexual abuse victim of a former diocesan priest, a policy was established.

The case involved several incidents of sexual abuse of young boys by the Rev. Thomas Adamson, a former diocesan priest who also served parishes in the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese. The incidents spanned 23 years and occurred in several communities, including Caladonia and Rochester.

The lawsuit accused the archdiocese and the Winona diocese of negligence by covering up Adamson's behavior and moving

him from parish to parish.

A jury agreed and assessed punitive damages of \$1 million against the archdiocese and \$700,000 against the Winona diocese. A judge later reduced the damages to \$50,000 for the archdiocese and \$137,000 for the diocese.

The Rev. Gerald Mahon, vicar general for the Winona diocese, said the diocese is still working out details of its policy but that parts of it are already in place.

The diocese has spent the year having priests and other employees review the policy and also has held clergy conferences on it.

In addition, he said, the diocese conducted conferences on human sexuality for all employees, including priests.

"We have tried to cover all aspects of sexual identity," Mahon said.

The policy requires all present and potential employees to fill out a questionnaire asking whether they have any allegations against them of sexual misconduct, he said. The questions include incidents of sexual harassment, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

While there is no guarantee that everyone filling out the form will be truthful, Mahon said he is hopeful that the questionnaires will give the diocese a written record of the past conduct of employees.

When allegations are made against a priest or other employee, the policy calls for an immediate investigation, Mahon said.

When the situation involves child molestation or other criminal allegations, police also are called in to assist in the investigation, he said.

The diocesan policy also calls for immediate removal from ministry of the priest or other person accused, depending on the seriousness of the allegations, he said.

Another aspect of the policy will be to appoint a trained advocate to assist the victim and look out for his or her interests, Mahon said.

If allegations prove true, professional counseling and treatment will be offered to the victim as well as the perpetrator, he said.

Perpetrators of sexual misconduct may or may not be allowed to return to active ministry after treatment, Mahon said.

"It depends on the circumstances," he said. "In a case of sexual harassment they likely could, but in cases of sexual abuse of a minor they likely could not."

Circumstances dictate what action is taken

La Crosse Diocesan lawyer James Birnbaum says when priests are accused of any sexual misconduct, the diocese first investigates the charges to determine their merit.

"To my knowledge, there's never been any charges not dealt with," Birnbaum said.

The status of the accused priest during the investigation depends on the charges being made, he said.

In cases involving allegations of sexual abuse of children, the accused is immediately removed from active ministry, Birnbaum said.

If criminal behavior is suspected, such as in cases involving abuse of children, the proper authorities are contacted so charges can be filed, he said.

Birnbaum said that depending on the circumstances, priests accused of sexual misconduct also undergo clinical evaluation. Counseling and treatment also is provided, he said.

Birnbaum said priests found to be guilty of sexual misconduct are not reassigned unless or until there is "concrete professional evidence that there is no longer a problem."

The policy covers all diocesan employees, not just priests, Birnbaum said.

ABUSE OF Faith

6% say they're aware of someone who's suffered sex abuse by clergy



Star Tribune WCCO-TV

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First of two parts

By Martha Sawyer Allen
Staff Writer

Six percent of Minnesotans personally know of someone who has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy, and 2 percent said they have been touched

by a clergy person in the past, a Star Tribune/WCCO-TV Minnesota Poll indicates.

Alan 57 percent said they had been touched by church workers other than clergy in the past, but made them feel uncomfortable.

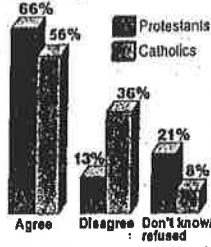
The poll found that about 15 percent of parents told their children they had been sexually abused by a clergy member in a church workplace, but that the child did not know.

Given the range of potential sampling error, that means that from 12,700 to 124,000 Minnesotans were touched by clergy in the past.

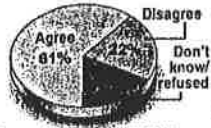
Poll continued on page 10A.

Dealing with clergy sex abuse

Q "Do you agree or disagree that your denomination is effectively dealing with reported incidents of sexual misconduct and abuse by members of the clergy?"



All Minnesotans polled



Source: Star Tribune / WCCO-TV Minnesota Poll of 1,222 Minnesota adults Jan. 26-Feb. 5. Maximum sampling error (plus or minus) 4.4 points for Catholics; 4.1 points for Protestants and 3.1 points for total sample.

She felt guilty when her pastor hugged her. A victim's story of abuse. Page 10A.

ABUSE OF Faith

She wanted support; pastor wanted more

By Martha Sawyer Allen
Staff Writer

She told him no, but her pastor hugged her anyway. A full frontal hug. The 38-year-old mother and wife felt embarrassed.

"I told him his arms felt like the arms of Jesus around me, but his hands felt like the devil's."

He persisted. Over time, the woman, who felt lonely and vulnerable and thought of her pastor as the father she never knew, allowed the pastor more and more liberties.

She felt ashamed, then afraid to tell anyone, including her husband. She thought it was her fault.

Eventually, she says, she realized she had been molested and abused, but when she tried to tell church officials, she was told she was a troublemaker.

Five years later, she is still trying to get a final meeting with church leaders. All she says she wants is for them to say that what happened was wrong and that her case was mishandled.

Her anger and sorrow still show up in tears. But she is stronger, articulate and eager to tell her story.

She asks that she be allowed to tell it anonymously, partly out of embarrassment, partly because her family wants to protect her. Her church and her denomination also will be anonymous.

Despite that anonymity, hers is a story that has been told before, sometimes in public court papers, sometimes whispered only between friends and family members. She tells it not to generate sympathy for her case, but so other people will recognize parts of their lives in her story, and recognize that what happened to her is wrong.

Experts say that cases such as hers are the classic kind of clergy sexual misconduct.

While the headlines generated by a case such as that of James R. Porter, the former priest who has admitted abusing scores of children, tend to focus attention on pedophilia, experts say most cases of sex abuse by the clergy occur within Protestant churches, between heterosexual adults.

"If you look at the overall numbers of offenders, the vast majority is involved with adults, and a huge number is Protestant," said Gary Schoener of Minneapolis, a national expert on sexual misconduct by professionals.

It started with a hug

Five years ago, the woman and her family moved to Minneapolis from a small town. She says she didn't have any good friends yet and was not accustomed to city life. She thought first of the church she grew up in, a Protestant denomination with several congregations in the Twin Cities.

She picked a church and introduced herself to the pastor, telling him that she and her family needed extra prayer.

He was a large man who often hugged parishioners, and he hugged her, too. She says

she felt uncomfortable and told him so. He told her he hoped she would tell him someday that it would be all right.

A few weeks later, she gave him a gift bag of food, as parishioners often do for their pastors. She says he asked her into his office, where he hugged her.

"I told him his arms felt like the arms of Jesus around me, but his hands felt like the devil's."

"I was in a huge coat, and there wasn't any sense of feeling his body, except envelopment. I felt red, embarrassed, flushed. I told him that even though it felt good, like the arms of Jesus, it felt uncomfortable," she recalls.

Later, she was to blame herself for somehow sending him a signal that she wanted something more in their relationship.

"Right after that hug I talked to him on the phone and asked him if I could adopt him as my father. He chuckled and said maybe we could be brother and sister because he wasn't that much older than me. Somehow that was the establishment of a feeling of specialness."

Still, she needed someone to talk to, and she was coming to believe that the pastor was a real father figure for her. She says she saw him about every other week in his office. They talked.

She told him that she needed to talk about friendships and boundaries.

"Just out of the blue he asked, 'Do you want to go to bed with me?' We had been talking about male-female relationships and establishing boundaries. I was just shocked at what he said, yet I felt such an identity with this man."

"I said 'no' immediately, but then I qualified it by saying I could picture being married to him down the road someday. I said sometimes things happen in life, and he seemed to be a fine person."

She shakes her head now, realizing how such conversations can have two interpretations. "Then he said, 'Now, I'll ask myself if I want to go to bed with you.' Then he said 'no,' but he could envision the same thing I had, down the road. It all shook me."

Five years later, she knows that many people would think she had encouraged him.

"People always ask why didn't I just get out. I was so dependent on him. What he said planted a seed in my brain that makes you more willing to accept some other kinds of overtures, especially if you have become dependent — for affirmations, counseling, help."

Dependency, then abuse

She didn't tell her husband about the conversation and how it upset her.

After that, her meetings with the pastor gradually involved more touching, although they never had intercourse. As she describes it, "there was penetration with his hands,"

although she does not go into more detail. It happened in his office, in her home. It lasted about six months.

From time to time, she would ask her pastor why he could not control his hands. Finally, she told him that his actions were unwelcome. She said he had a "breakdown" and admitted

to her that he had a sexual addiction and needed help.

She contacted another pastor in the denomination, not knowing that he was a good friend of her pastor.

"I was scared to death and blaming myself, feeling how stupid I was," she says. "I was very frightened. I knew the only way to intervene in this man's life, to get it to stop, was that somebody else needed to get involved."

The second pastor told her he saw his friend "on his knees admitting to his brokenness. From there on, there were no more physical violations."

The woman prayed that her problems would end. She still hadn't told anyone, and the family remained in the congregation.

Slowly, with the help of a professional therapist, she says she began to realize that she was suffering from the effects of sexual abuse.

It "was like a burden had lifted from me," she said. Her tears come easily now. "I was so naive to sexual addiction, to power imbalances in professional relationships."

She paused to regain her composure. "But I broke the silence."

She told the church's council chairman, and then reported it to various officials of the national church organization. She says her story was met with denial and minimizing. Surely she must have misunderstood, she was told. At her church, she says she began hearing rumors that her marriage was in trouble and that she was having an affair. And she says she was stonewalled by the national denominational offices and their insurance company in her efforts to be reimbursed for her therapy bills. Nor would they issue an apology.

Her family tells her often that she seems to have a lot of anger that she did not have before the abuse happened, she says. "I think it comes from not being able to have satisfactory answers to my questions, to have a closure meeting with the national church leaders. Accountability, mercy and justice are missing for me."

Just wanted an apology

In frustration she contacted Jeff Anderson, a St. Paul lawyer who specializes in representing victims of sex abuse by the

clergy.

Anderson says her case was different from a typical one he sees in that "she wanted to work within the church." She did not want to file a lawsuit, only to get someone to say they were sorry for the abuse and take actions to ensure that it wouldn't happen again.

"I always tell my clients they won't get an apology," Anderson says. "The perpetrator and the church always deny, minimize and blame the victim."

The congregation held a meeting to try to sort out the issues, but didn't tell the woman and her family that the pastor was going to speak until right before it started.

"A man blocked the door. We were only told about the meeting 10 minutes before the pastor was going to speak. My husband and I wanted to hear what he'd say. We said, 'We're still members of this congregation and we have a right to hear what he'll say.' We pushed right by him. The pastor had already begun to speak. He said it was difficult to recognize the brokenness in people's lives."

"He said he was struggling with some things, and he acknowledged he had been wrong. But he spoke of it as a mutual relationship, an affair. He said, 'We both wanted it to end. You all know me. I'm just a big teddy bear,' meaning he wouldn't harm anyone."

The woman did finally get a mediation session with the denominational leaders and the pastor in which she was able to confront him about some of the issues, and he did apologize to her. The pastor said that what he did was wrong, but he would not acknowledge it as sexual abuse.

In a second mediation session, now two years after the abuse, it was decided that a letter to the congregation would be written, explaining what happened. The pastor left the state.

The woman contends that the church has lost some of its membership over the issue.

"A lot of it was because of the mishandling of all this. People said they felt betrayed by the pastor and the leadership in this coverage."

The woman still wants the denomination to have a final, formal closure meeting with her, and she continues to work to that end. Her family has joined another Protestant church in a different denomination.

"I don't feel safe in church now. I don't trust the community of believers to respond compassionately," she says. "I probably have a healthier understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of any church. I'm not as naive. I ask better questions."

But she says she can't find the joy in worship in a building anymore.

"I don't know if the worship experience will ever be the same in the church sanctuary as it once was. That feeling of joy. The place I feel that joy now, in my relationship with the Lord, is outside, with the trees being the cross. That's my sanctuary."

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Poll/Questions used the broadest possible definition of sex abuse

Continued from page 1A

adults may have been touched by either clergy members or other church workers in ways that were troubling to them.

The telephone survey of 1,222 Minnesotans from Jan. 26 to Feb. 5 is the first attempt at establishing the scope of sexual abuse by members of the clergy in Minnesota.

"Even though these seem like small numbers, given that this is the kind of thing that never should happen, these numbers are pretty high," said Gary Schoener, a nationally recognized expert in sexual misconduct by professionals. "This means it isn't just the occasional minister with a single victim in a rare situation. It's happening periodically. People are becoming more and more aware of it."

Poll questions used the broadest possible definition of sexual abuse to include any kind of physical contact that might violate a person's boundaries. This includes everything from unwanted hugging and touching up to criminal sexual assault.

The level of sexual abuse is similar for both respondents who identified themselves as Protestants and those who were Roman Catholics. Seven percent of Protestants said they had personal knowledge of someone who said they had been abused by a clergyman. Five percent of Roman Catholics said they did.

Officials of Minnesota churches and experts on sex abuse and the clergy said they are not surprised by the numbers.

"I think it's too early to say we've hit the crest of a wave nationally [in incident reports]," said the Rev. Margaret Thomas, president of the Minnesota Council of Churches. "Maybe we have in Minnesota, but in the rest of the country many peo-

ple still don't know there's a problem."

The Rev. Margo Maris, assistant to the Minnesota Episcopal bishop and a nationally recognized expert on sexual misconduct and the clergy, said she is receiving about the same number of complaints that she has for several years.

She also said she believes that it will be at least four to eight years before the number of reported incidents begins to level off and prevention programs instituted in many denominations begin to have some effect.

"The more and more people are willing to remember, the more they will report, and then we'll have to respond," she said. "At some point in that time, hopefully, [sexual abuse] won't be occurring as many times."

Jeff Anderson, a St. Paul lawyer who specializes in representing people who say they have been abused by members of the clergy, said that despite the growing attention given to the problem, such sex abuse remains underreported.

"It's a lot more extensive than we want to believe," he said. "I don't think there's more sex abuse here than anywhere else in the country. The reality is that people come forward here because there's been all the [media] exposure. It feels safer for people to talk here."

Other poll results found that less than one-half of 1 percent of respondents said they had had an extramarital affair with a clergyman. In a Minnesota clergy survey in 1991, 15 percent of the mainline Protestant clergy said they had had an affair outside of marriage, and 21 percent of the Roman Catholic clergy said they had had a sexual relationship in violation of their vow of celibacy. While these numbers may seem con-

Poll continued on page 19A



Sex abuse and the Minnesota clergy

The Minnesota Poll found that the incidence of sex abuse by the clergy and personal knowledge of that sex abuse is relatively similar between Protestants and Catholics.

Q "Do you personally know anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse by a member of the clergy?"

	Yes	No	Don't know/refused
Protestant	7%	92%	1%
Catholic	5%	94%	1%
Total	6%	93%	1%

Q "Have you personally ever been touched by a minister, priest or rabbi in a way that made you feel uncomfortable?"

	Yes	No	Don't know/refused
Protestant	1%	98%	1%
Catholic	2%	97%	1%
Total	2%	97%	1%

Q "Have you personally ever been touched by other church workers in a way that made you feel uncomfortable?"

	Yes	No	Don't know/refused
Protestant	2%	97%	1%
Catholic	1%	98%	1%
Total	2%	97%	1%

Q "Have any of your children ever told you they were hugged or touched by a minister, priest or rabbi in a way that made them feel uncomfortable?"

	Yes	No	Don't know/refused
Protestant	1%	99%	—
Catholic	1%	99%	—
Total	1%	99%	—

* Asked only of 755 poll respondents who said they have children.
Source: Star Tribune/WCCO-TV Minnesota Poll of 1,222 Minnesota adults Jan. 26-Feb. 5. Maximum sampling error (plus or minus) 4.4 points for Catholics; 4.1 points for Protestants and 3.7 points for total sample.

Star Tribune graphic / Sidney Jablonski

Facts about the poll

Poll results cited in the accompanying articles are based on a Star Tribune/WCCO-TV Minnesota Poll conducted by telephone with 1,222 adults statewide Jan. 26 to Feb. 5.

The poll interviewed 1,018 adults at random and an additional 204 Catholic respondents statewide. The samples allowed the poll to analyze responses of 497 Catholics and 564 Protestants, as well as all adults statewide.

For results based on samples of 1,018, one can be 95 percent confident that error because of sampling will be no more than plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. The margin of sampling error for percentages based on smaller samples — Catholics or Protestants, for example —

will be larger.

For results that cite percentages close to 100 percent or zero percent, margin of sampling error is smaller. For example, the 2 percent of those who say they have been touched by a member of the clergy in a way that made them feel uncomfortable could be as low as nine-tenths of a percent of the state's adult population or as high as 2.7 percent.

Polling is based on statistical methods that allow researchers to accurately describe attitudes and behaviors about an entire population — adults in Minnesota, Protestants or Catholics — based on results from a sample, such as the 1,222 interviewed for this series of articles.

Results of the overall sample of 1,018, which included people of all religious categories and included the unaffiliated, were weighted for household size and gender to reflect 1990 census results for Minnesota. Results for Protestants only, or Catholics only, are not weighted.

In addition to sampling error, other forms of error or bias may be introduced by question wording and the practical difficulties of conducting any poll.

Project Research of Minneapolis did the interviewing for the Star Tribune. The Minnesota Poll is directed by Rob Daves, assistant managing editor. The findings are available for inspection by appointment at Star Tribune offices, 425 Portland Av. S., Minneapolis.

Poll/ Many respondents mentioned Porter or alluded to his sex-abuse case

Continued from page 18A

radiatory, there is a much smaller number of clergy in the state than the general population.

The Minnesota Poll also found that a significantly larger percentage of Catholics know of an incident involving the sexual abuse of children by a priest in their parish than Protestants are aware of in their congregations.

Eight percent of Catholics said a priest in their parish had been accused of sexually abusing a child, compared with 3 percent of Protestants.

Catholics also were more critical of their church's handling of clergy sex-abuse problems. Asked if they agreed or disagreed that their denomination is dealing effectively with the problem, the majority of both groups agreed that it is, but nearly three times the percentage of Catholics than Protestants disagreed — 36 percent to 13 percent.

It takes only one case such as that of former priest James R. Porter of Oakdale, whose admitted sexual abuse of scores of children has been front-page news nationwide for nearly a year, to cast suspicion on all clergy, but particularly Catholic priests.

Indeed, it was clear from comments by poll respondents that Porter's name has become nearly synonymous with abuse of children by the clergy. A significant number of respondents mentioned Porter's name or alluded to his case when asked to comment at the conclusion of the poll questions.

"We're concerned in Minnesota with the high visibility of pedophilia, because it makes it harder to get attention to adult boundary violations," Thomas said. "People who are accused say, 'I'm not a Porter.' Denominations are trying to talk about the roles of pastors and necessary boundaries, but in one sense we've been victimized ourselves by Porter."

The Rev. Kevin McDonough, vicar general of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and an expert on sex-abuse cases, agreed that Porter's case has skewed the perceptions of the breadth of the problem.

"Porter has been part of our conversation among the leaders of denominations. All of us are lamenting the fact that Porter, who is the rare, exceptionally bad perpetrator, has drawn attention away from the more common but less visible problems that we're trying to deal with on a day-in and day-out basis," McDonough said. "That's not to reduce what he did. It was awful, and the response

of the church was inadequate."

Several experts have contended that Catholic clergy have a greater problem with pedophilia, a sexual attraction to children, than do Protestant clergy, but Schoener, for one, thinks not.

Experts also have said that the celibacy of Catholic priests is not a cause of sexual abuse, but Minnesotans aren't so sure.

The poll found that Minnesotans — Protestants and Catholics alike — are split on whether they think celibacy causes some Catholic priests to become sexually involved with children. Overall, 49 percent agree that it does, while 42 percent disagree. For Protestants, 54 percent agree that it does, compared with 43 percent of Catholics.

Tomorrow: How have allegations of abuse affected the reputations of various churches?

Respondents speak out on a troubling issue

The following are comments interviewees for the Minnesota Poll recorded at the end of the interview in response to the question, "Is there anything you would like to say about any of the topics we have discussed today?"

"In our town, a minister sexually assaulted two children, and the town got together and supported both the children by keeping the names private, and supported the minister by realizing that he is human, too." — **Woman, 27, Protestant, Carlton County**

"I'm glad that it's out in the open, that there's public awareness. And I hope that the people who have been involved will get help, especially the victims, but I'd also like the perpetrators to be helped." — **Woman, 57, Protestant, Hennepin County**

"Clergy should be held to a higher standard, but our society keeps people in a perpetual state of eroticism. It would be hard for St. Francis of Assisi to be a good person." — **Woman, 49, Catholic, St. Louis County**

"My belief is . . . it's an individual crisis, not having anything to do with their religious training or vows. You can't blame it on the church; you have to blame it on the weaknesses of the individual." — **Man, 41, Catholic, Dakota County**

"[Clergy] need to be trusted, and it's inexcusable for them to take advantage of anyone that they're counseling or to use their position to manipulate anyone." — **Woman, 46, Lutheran, Hennepin County**

"As far as the [Catholic] Church dealing with it, I do think they have covered it up quite a bit, and I do think it's discouraging to the members." — **Woman, 32, Catholic, Anoka County**

Pine County

"I find it hard to attend church because of the disclosures about children being molested by ministers and such." — **Woman, 34, Lutheran, Ramsey County**

"I just think that the Catholic Church has done all that they can do [to prevent] abuse." — **Woman, 36, Catholic, Washington County**

"I just don't feel I can trust them [churches]. We want to find a church to baptize our child, but don't feel comfortable because of all the molestation." — **Man, 39, Lutheran, Dakota County**

"I am wholeheartedly loyal to the Roman Catholic Church, but I think they are being irresponsible [on] the issue of sexual abuse by priests, and that priests who have been identified as pedophiles should not be allowed to work directly with young children again. I don't think they are providing adequate counseling and medical treatment for this disorder." — **Woman, 42, Catholic, Carver County**

"I feel that the church would not be addressing the sexual abuse problem if the news media did not make it public. People in positions in the church who are aware of sexual abuse and don't do anything should be charged along with the abuser." — **Man, 43, Catholic, Dakota County**

"I think that [the poll] was interesting, and it should be discussed more. It really needs to be talked about and not hidden." — **Woman, 46, Lutheran, Dakota County**

"When I was a teen, I was picked up by a clergy member for a convention, which made me feel uncomfortable." — **Man, 38, Baptist, Hennepin County**

"My personal opinion is that they [churches] are beginning to effectively deal with the issue of sexual abuse." — **Man, 42, Catholic, Stearns County**

"I'm sure it's a closet thing that's been going on for centuries. I guess it's time that religions or churches, for them to effectively

...IN ONE TOWER...
"I'm sure it's a closet thing that's been going on for centuries. I guess it's time that religions or churches, for them to effectively deal with the problem [and] get out of denial." — Man, 47, Catholic, Redwood County

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"I really believe that the Catholic religion is a strong religion and it's made up of human beings and we all make mistakes, so you can't really judge a religion by one human's actions." — Man, 29, Catholic, Hennepin County

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"A lot of this church sex stuff is fabricated. Not all of it, but a lot, because of the money part of it, with lawyers." — Man, 48, Catholic, Stearns County

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ABUSE OF Faith

Cases of sexual abuse by priests have hurt image of Catholic Church



Star Tribune/WCCO-TV

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Last in a two-part series

By Martha Sawyer Allen
Staff Writer

Despite nationally recognized efforts by Roman Catholic Church officials in the Twin Cities to deal with the problem of sexual abuse by members of the clergy,

the Star Tribune/WCCO-TV Minnesota Poll has found that Minnesotans' regard for the church has been damaged by such cases.

Sixty-two percent of Minnesotans said they believe the Catholic Church is more interested in protecting its image than in helping sex abuse victims, compared with only 42 percent who said that of Protestant denominations.

Even Catholics judged their own church more harshly than Protestant churches.

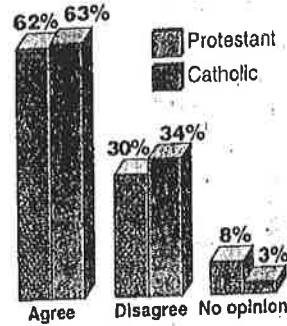
Fifty-eight percent of Minnesota

Poll continued on page 6A.

New clergy face distrust

The Minnesota Poll found that while people generally have confidence in their churches and congregations, they don't automatically trust new priests or ministers. Protestants and Catholics were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the following:

Q "When a new (priest / minister) arrives in our (congregation / parish), I wonder if (he / she) is someone I can trust."



Source: Star Tribune / WCCO-TV Minnesota Poll of 1,222 Minnesota adults Jan. 26-Feb. 5. Maximum sampling error (plus or minus) 4.4 points for Catholics and 4.1 points for Protestants.

Star Tribune graphic

■ Church leaders forced to deal with abuse. Page 6A.

ABUSE OF
Faith

Abundant accusations tax church resources

By Martha Sawyer Allen
Staff Writer

Church leaders have increasingly found their time and resources directed away from the spiritual and toward the ugly reality of sex abuse by a small number of clergy people.

Churches are pushing harder to find and treat clergy members and church workers who sexually harass and abuse their parishioners, and then to set up programs to prevent further abuse.

"It's now becoming clear that clergy who are caught crossing the boundaries into sexual misconduct are losing their jobs," said the Rev. Margaret Thomas, executive director of the Minnesota Council of Churches, which monitors denominational response to the problem.

Many more are being disciplined, removed permanently from parish work or forced into early retirement.

But so far, the efforts of most churches are having only marginal effect on the number of complaints, and some denominational leaders might feel as if the flames of hell are scorching their feet, at least when it comes to this issue.

No denomination has been spared. A United Methodist bishop in Maryland resigned in disgrace after admitting to sexual abuse. Clergy members in every Lutheran denomination in Minnesota and nationally have faced criminal and civil charges ranging from pedophilia to sexual harassment involving no physical contact.



Star Tribune WCCO-TV

Abuse cases hurt image of churches

When it comes to moral standards, the Minnesota Poll found that people have higher expectations of clergy than others. The poll also found that the Roman Catholic Church's image has suffered more than Protestant denominations in the wake of sex abuse cases.



"I expect a Protestant minister's moral conduct to be better than other people's conduct."

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Protestant	68%	30%	2%
Catholic	66%	31%	3%
Total	64%	33%	3%



"I expect a Roman Catholic priest's moral conduct to be better than other people's conduct."

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Protestant	63%	32%	5%
Catholic	71%	28%	1%
Total	63%	33%	4%



"Roman Catholic Church leaders are more concerned about protecting the church's image than about helping parishioners who are sexually abused by priests."

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Protestant	65%	22%	13%
Catholic	58%	38%	4%
Total	62%	28%	10%



"Protestant church leaders are more concerned about protecting the church's image than about helping congregation members who are sexually abused by pastors."

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Protestant	38%	50%	12%
Catholic	43%	37%	20%
Total	42%	42%	16%



"Recent disclosures that some Roman Catholic priests have sexually abused parishioners have lowered my opinion of the Roman Catholic Church."

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Protestant	46%	49%	5%
Catholic	33%	66%	1%
Total	42%	53%	5%



"Recent disclosures that some Protestant pastors have sexually abused members of their congregations have lowered my opinion of Protestant churches in general."

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Protestant	32%	64%	4%
Catholic	28%	66%	6%
Total	31%	62%	7%

Questions were rotated.

Source: Star Tribune / WCCO-TV Minnesota Poll of 1,222 Minnesota adults Jan. 26-Feb. 5. Maximum sampling error (plus or minus) 4.4 points for Catholics; 4.1 points for Protestants and 3.1 points for total sample.

Star Tribune graphic / Sidney J...

representing victims of clergy sex

leader in its handling of sex abuse

physical contact. The list sounds like the roll call of U.S. denominations: Presbyterians, Baptists, Episcopalians, Mennonites, Assemblies of God, Evangelical Covenant.

And then there's the ultimate nightmare: the case of James R. Porter, the former Roman Catholic priest whose admissions of molesting scores of children in five states in the 1960s and 1970s have made national headlines. He is in jail, serving six months for molesting his family's baby sitter in Oakdale.

Familiar themes came to light in the Porter case. Church officials repeatedly moved Porter from parish to parish, hoping that somewhere along the line he'd be cured.

As more cases have been made public, it has become clear that until recently, that kind of solution was not unique to the Catholic Church.

Once a pastor has crossed those boundaries and the synod is involved, the chance of the pastor getting into another congregation is substantially reduced," said the Rev. Elizabeth Beissel, assistant to the bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

"That doesn't mean that a pastor won't receive another parish," she said. "It is possible, but only with much scrutiny, deliberation and therapy."

While the percentage of clergy members who have been charged with sexual misconduct remains small, the extent of the damage continues to grow.

There's the personal damage, the broken lives of the victims, the clergy and the congregations.

In a typical case, a child or adult suffered abuse for months or years and thought all the time that they did something wrong," said Jeff Anderson, a St. Paul attorney who

representing victims of clergy sex abuse. "It was somehow their fault. They suffered in secrecy and shame and have a problem-filled life now."

Most men who were abused as children develop chemical abuse problems, particularly if they were abused by men, Anderson said. Many women simply "shut down" sexually, he said. Victims often require years of therapy.

Experts agree that it's even more painful because the abuse happened at the hands of a representative of the church, and therefore wounds the victim's faith.

"We are trying to keep the church a safe place by having people there who are safe people and know the boundaries," said the Rev. Margo Maris, assistant to the Episcopal bishop of Minnesota and a nationally recognized expert on clergy sexual misconduct.

There's also the financial damage to denominations that pay large sums to victims — usually quietly, out of court and away from media attention. Some experts figure that at least \$400 million has been spent nationally to compensate victims of clergy sex abuse.

The Catholic Diocese of Fall River, Mass., has settled out of court with at least 50 Porter victims for what some have estimated at almost \$4 million. And the Catholic dioceses of Crookston, Minn., and Albuquerque, N.M., where Porter once worked as a priest, still face civil suits and potentially millions in damages.

There is the damage to the church's reputation, to the reputation of its leaders. The civil trial in 1990 against the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis over abuse by Thomas Adamson, a former priest, presented a disturbing picture of disagreement and denial among church officials over how to handle reports of abuse by him.

Fallout from the Adamson case led the archdiocese to overhaul its

leader in its handling of sex abuse allegations against the clergy.

And then there's the internal damage to the churches themselves, in their ability to sustain viable organizations.

"We need to learn how to deal with this issue without losing all our resources and credibility," Thomas said. "If we don't, we'll go under."

At the same time, the problem is presenting difficult personnel issues for church bureaucracies that have never been attuned to conducting investigations of clergy and other church workers.

"If there is a practice now of never letting someone who has been accused of abuse of returning to parish ministry, then a clergyman's entire professional life is in the balance," Thomas said. "So when they're charged, they say, 'Prove it.' Denominational disciplinary processes were never created with the expectation of doing major investigative work."

Thomas is on a national Presbyterian committee that's rewriting its rules of discipline. "This is causing virtually every communion to rethink how it handles its disciplinary actions," she said. "If it's not done right, there's the fear of countersuits from the accused who say their employers have violated their rights."

There's also the problem of the damage to a congregation when its spiritual leader is accused. Beissel and many others often work to help congregations over the trouble.

"If we can be honest about what has happened regardless of the pain it brings, people are much easier to heal," she said. "I don't want to use word 'forgive.' That implies it's all right that a pastor [sexually abused someone]. It's easier to heal and to use that experience to grow in the faith and toward one another. I have found that when the issue isn't dealt with openly in a congregation and the pain experienced together, it's

Confidence in own pastor higher than other professions

Minnesotans have less confidence in organized religion as a whole than they do in their own congregations and pastors. And they have more confidence in their own pastors than they do in other professions.

Organized religion

	Protest.	Cath.	Total
Great deal	25%	30%	24%
Only some	61%	59%	59%
Hardly any	11%	9%	14%
None (vol.)	2%	1%	2%
No opinion	1%	1%	1%

*Response was volunteered

Own church/synagogue

	Protest.	Cath.	Total
Great deal	59%	48%	52%
Only some	34%	45%	37%
Hardly any	3%	5%	5%
None (vol.)	1%	—	1%
No opinion/ no church	3%	2%	5%

Own pastor/minister

	Protest.	Cath.	Total
Great deal	65%	52%	56%
Only some	26%	41%	31%
Hardly any	4%	4%	5%
None (vol.)	—	—	1%
No opinion/ no pastor	5%	3%	7%

Doctors

	Protest.	Cath.	Total
Great deal	44%	42%	44%
Only some	51%	54%	51%
Hardly any	5%	3%	4%
None (vol.)	—	1%	1%
No opinion	—	—	—

Some church officials say memories of sex abuse are not always reliable

By Martha Sawyer Allen
Staff Writer

Some experts and church leaders say they've seen a small but troubling phenomenon turning up among clergy sexual abuse reports.

In a few cases, they say, people who say they were molested as children have incorrect memories and say they were abused by a clergy member when actually it was someone else.

"I've seen some things where someone has claimed to be burned, for example, but there are no scars on the skin," said Gary Schoener, a nationally recognized expert on clergy sex abuse. "There is sometimes a point beyond which it's not possible to go" in ascertaining the truth of such reports.

The Rev. Margaret Thomas, executive director of the Minnesota Council

of Churches, which monitors clergy sex abuse among denominations, said: "I don't think I've heard any stories that are misinterpreted. But there are some statistics, on child abuse reports that show a few false accusations. Childhood memory is not good. I've heard enough professionals say that thoughts can be planted too easily."

The church is supposed to be a place of healing and reconciliation. Yet when someone comes to church officials claiming to have been abused as a child, they must seek the truth. They have to protect the victim, yet take care not to hurt an innocent clergyperson or church worker.

Some church leaders say they've come across people who claim to have been abused, particularly by a Catholic priest, just to get in on a financial settlement. Cases involving Catholic priests usually have high

visibility, and the church has had to develop interviewing techniques designed to discern phony claims.

Jeff Anderson, a St. Paul attorney who specializes in clergy sex abuse cases, said he has never represented a client who made a false report or had one who was driven merely by greed.

"They want the pain to stop, and they can't live with the feeling that it might be happening to others," he said. "I don't see the greed."

The Rev. Harold Hopkins, national pastoral development director for the Episcopal Church, said: "I can't say I've seen a false memory, but I think it's an issue for all of us to be concerned with."

Schoener said: "The reality is that memory is very complex. Even a false memory is still real. It's just false."

Reporters/journalists

	Protest.	Cath.	Total
Great deal	10%	11%	11%
Only some	69%	68%	67%
Hardly any	18%	19%	19%
None (vol.)	2%	2%	2%
No opinion	1%	—	1%

Lawyers

	Protest.	Cath.	Total
Great deal	8%	10%	8%
Only some	60%	59%	59%
Hardly any	26%	25%	26%
None (vol.)	4%	5%	5%
No opinion	2%	1%	2%

Items were rotated.
Source: Star Tribune / WCCO-TV
Minnesota Poll of 1,222 Minnesota adults
Jan. 28-Feb. 5. Maximum sampling error
(plus or minus) 4.4 points for Catholics,
4.1 points for Protestants and 3.1 points
for total sample.

Poll/ Clergy new to a congregation suffer from a lack of trust

Continued from page 1A

Catholics said they believe their church is more interested in protecting its image than in helping victims, while only 43 percent of Catholics said the same of Protestant churches.

The poll asked 1,222 Minnesotans a series of questions about sexual abuse by members of the clergy and their image of the organized church from Jan. 26 to Feb. 5.

The poll indicated that Minnesotans as a whole have a lower opinion of Catholics in the arena of clergy sex abuse than of Protestants. Some of that may be attributable to the case of James R. Porter, an ex-priest whose abuse of children has been front-page news for nearly a year, as well as a number of other recent well-publicized cases involving Minnesota priests.

Clergy of all denominations new to a congregation suffer from a lack of trust among parishioners, the poll found.

Sixty-three percent of Catholics said that when a new priest comes to their parish, they wonder if he is someone they can trust. Sixty-two percent of Protestants said they wonder if they can trust a new pastor.

As Mary Jo Rains, a Catholic from Fridley, said: "I believe the newspapers more than I do the church. You're willing to meet [new priests] and give them a chance, but because of all this that's going on, you really wonder if they are someone you can trust."

In poll results published Sunday

personally think Catholics in this archdiocese have done a good job [in dealing with sex abuse], but my grandmother, the old Lutheran, would even" judge Catholics harshly on this issue.

Maris' counterpart in the Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis put it differently.

"Denominational identity is very strong for Roman Catholics, stronger than for most Protestants," said the Rev. Kevin McDonough, vicar general of the archdiocese. "I think people who believe they can trust us believe it strongly because it's important to them. Our church is less congregational in its feel than would be most Protestant churches. People feel more strongly one way or another. I suppose there's a certain amount of Catholic-bashing, but I don't like to cry that particularly."

On the issue of trust of the clergy, McDonough acknowledged that there has been erosion.

"There is a loss of trust in the overall institution, but there's a renewal of trust in the local community. People are asking tough questions of our clergy and church workers, and our people match up generally to those tough questions," he said. "We don't have anything to hide. We're proud of our clergy, but the days of automatic trust of anybody are gone."

Nevertheless, parents in the poll continued to show high trust levels of various groups of adults who might be in charge of their children.

Eighty-four percent of Protestants

trust."

In poll results published Sunday in the Star Tribune, the level of sexual abuse was similar for both respondents who identified themselves as Protestants and those who were Catholics. Seven percent of Protestants said they knew of someone who said they had been abused by a clergyman. Five percent of Roman Catholics said they did.

Forty-two percent of Minnesotans said recent revelations about sex abuse by priests have lowered their opinion of the Catholic Church. Thirty-one percent said revelations about Protestant clergy misconduct have lowered their opinion of Protestant denominations.

Among Catholics, 33 percent said recent revelations about sex abuse have altered their opinion of the Catholic Church, while 66 percent said they have not.

Thirty-two percent of Protestants said recent revelations about sex abuse have lowered their opinion of the Protestant church, while 64 percent said they have not.

"You should trust someone and give them the benefit of the doubt. It's a scary world, and there's a lot of publicity about things, but there's really nothing new," said Julie Chapman, a Catholic poll respondent from South St. Paul. "It's been going on for a long time."

Joe Fleigle of Fridley agreed. "All the bad things going on nowadays with the child abuse — it's not all of them. It's a few bad apples, and you're making a big deal out of them."

Despite the criticism of both Protestant and Catholic churches in dealing with sex abuse, 52 percent of Minnesotans said they had a great deal of confidence in their own church or synagogue, and 56 percent said they had a great deal of confidence in their own pastor or minister.

Among Catholics, 48 percent said they had a great deal of confidence in their own church, compared with 59 percent of Protestants who said they had a great deal of confidence in their own church

Eighty-four percent of Protestants with children and 75 percent of Catholics with children said they would trust a clergyman to chaperone their son or daughter on an overnight or weekend retreat. That compares with a 70 percent trust level overall for coaches to chaperone an overnight, and 69 percent for police officers.

However, Minnesotans also had clear notions about how they want caring professionals to deal with their children. Ninety-two percent agreed that it is all right for an adult who is not the parent to pick up and hug a child who is crying, but only 23 percent said it is all right for the adult to spank a disruptive child, and only 8 percent said it is all right to tell children who misbehave that God will be angry with them.

And 83 percent said it is all right for an adult who is not the parent to hug a child as a show of warmth and affection.

People who have the strongest faith, that is, those who are the most active in church life and practice private daily spiritual activities, are more likely to have greater confidence in their religious institutions.

The more committed Catholics are to the Catholic Church, the less likely they are to think that their leaders value protecting the church's image over helping victims. The same holds true for Protestants.

For example, 55 percent of those identified as "strong" Catholics disagreed strongly that recent disclosures of priest sexual abuse have lowered their opinion of the Catholic Church, compared with 32 percent of all adults. And 47 percent of "strong" Protestants disagreed strongly that disclosures of Protestant clergy sexual abuse have lowered their opinion of the Protestant church, compared with 38 percent overall.

Facts about the poll

Poll results cited in the accompanying articles are based on a Star Tribune/WCCO-TV Minnesota Poll conducted by telephone with 1,222 adults statewide Jan. 26 to Feb. 5.

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And 46 percent of Protestants said that recent disclosures of sex abuse by Catholic clergy had lowered their opinion of the Catholic Church. Only 28 percent of Catholics said recent disclosures of sex abuse by Protestant clergy had altered their opinion of the Protestant church.

It was clear from comments recorded by interviewers after the poll questions were completed that the "Porter factor" played a role in shaping Minnesotans' opinions of the Catholic Church. Without prompting, a significant number of respondents mentioned his case by name or alluded to it.

Some individual comments also suggest that negative opinions held by Protestants toward the Catholic Church existed even before sex abuse allegations gained attention.

"That [prejudice] goes all way back to the Reformation," said the Rev. Margo Maris, assistant to the Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota and a national expert on clergy sex abuse. "I

For results based on samples of 1,018, one can be 95 percent confident that error because of sampling will be no more than plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. The margin of sampling error for percentages based on smaller samples — Catholics or Protestants, for example — will be larger.

Results of the overall sample of 1,018, which included people of all religious categories and those unaffiliated with any religion, were weighted for household size and gender to reflect 1990 Census results for Minnesota. Results for Protestants only, or Catholics only, are unweighted.

In addition to sampling error, other forms of error or bias may be introduced by question wording and the practical difficulties of conducting any poll.

Project Research of Minneapolis conducted the interviewing for the Star Tribune. The Minnesota Poll is directed by Rob Daves, assistant managing editor for news research. The poll's findings are available for inspection by appointment at Star Tribune offices, 425 Portland Av. S., Minneapolis.

DIOCESE OF WINONA
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WINONA, MINNESOTA 55901

FAX TRANSMITTAL

To: George Restovich
Fr. Gerald Mahon
Date: March 26, 1993

3 pages including this transmittal sheet

work by ferryman George Schehyer.

The meeting's agenda included a request by Schehyer for a 25-cent-per-day raise because, he said, demand for river crossings had tripled in the six months since the council had first hired him. The council approved the pay hike, although Councilman S. Lamm opposed it as excessive. The fiscally conservative Lamm, played by Councilman Tony Knapp, also voted against other city expenditures.

"Moving from a liberal to a See RE-ENACT
(Please turn to page 15)

MANKATO — The re-enactment of Mankato's first city meeting Tuesday was the first of a series of events during the seven months which will celebrate the city's 125 anniversary. Events include:

- April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 — A series of weekly lectures on the history and heritage of the Mankato area.
- June 27 — A tour of Mankato's homes, past to present.
- July 9-10 — Mankato State University and City of Mankato Year Celebration including an "All School Reunion," an concert, golf and bridge tournaments, bus tours of the city, tours, art exhibits and play performances.
- September — A billboard contest at Mankato schools.
- September 17-19 — Powwow Celebration.
- October 1 — Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame recognizes local businesses and organizations.
- October 2-3 — The annual Ghost from the Past event at the Nature Center, focusing on the history of Mankato.
- October 3 — Open house at all city offices and facilities.

Church begins sexual misconduct

By BRIAN OJANPA
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — The bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Winona, in confronting what he calls the hurt caused by sexual misconduct within the church, is conducting special "healing" services in five diocesan cities.

The Most Rev. John Vlazny held the first service Sunday in Mankato for church personnel and

anyone who may have been personally affected by sexual misconduct.

The Rev. Gerald Mahon, a spokesman for the diocese, said the services are being con-



John Vlazny

ducted to highlight a revised diocesan sexual misconduct policy.

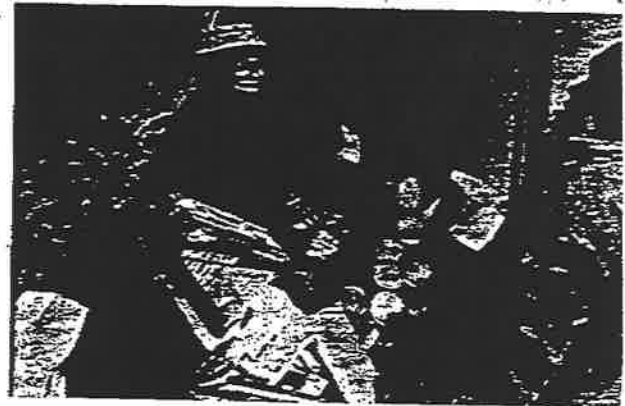
"But even more important, we wanted the opportunity to invite survivors to a prayer service." He said he didn't know whether any sexual misconduct victims attended Sunday's service.

Mahon said the revised policy addresses legal questions, provides information programs for church personnel and contains a pen-

Waseca police chief hearing set

WASECA — An administrative hearing is scheduled to begin today to lay out the facts of a complaint lodged against Waseca Police Chief Bruce Stauffer.

Stauffer was placed on paid administrative leave last month while Faribault attorney Kurt Fischer, who was hired by the city, investigated the complaint. Fischer said the nature of the



hance his already considerable influence in the Independent-Republican Party and national GOP.

Weber also used some of the money to buy his old office furniture at discount prices, throw "thank you" parties and hold a staff retreat.

"I said a lot of thank yous, no doubt about it. That even included some members of the press," the Minnesota Republican said.

Weber had about \$300,000 in campaign money when he announced in April that he wouldn't run again following disclosures that he wrote 125 overdrafts totaling \$58,000 on the now-defunct House bank. All of the campaign

money was used to purchase any public funds.

Weber cannot use any of that money for personal expenses, but the law controlling campaign funds is so broadly written that the money can be used for virtually any political activity.

Among the uses Weber found for the money was a political action committee he created called Change Minnesota, which supports conservative causes.

Weber gave nearly \$34,000 to Republican causes and candidates, with most of that spent in Minnesota. He spent \$12,000 on plane tickets to California and Texas on behalf of Republican candidates.

He took four trips to New York

zation called Change America that would have promoted conservative causes and candidates.

Weber also took advantage of an obscure perk available to members of Congress who quit or are defeated. They are allowed to buy — at apparently bargain rates — any furniture from their district offices.

Weber bought all the furniture and equipment in his New Ulm office, paying \$4,840 for about 60 items.

Much of the furniture was old and Weber said that he had nothing to do with deciding its value. A 1974 law says that the value of each item is to be based on its age and original cost, but never less than "fair-market value."



Vin Weber

Services are at Cathedral of St. Mary's with military honors. St. Mary's is a 7 p.m. Kn rosary and a prayer Wednesday.

Visitation is Thursday at Funeral Home, is a 7 p.m. Kn rosary and a prayer Wednesday.

Mr. Broich was born in 1919, to John (Kaschmitter) E. He graduated High School in 1937, the U.S. Air Force in 1945. He married Sept. 25, 1945. They owned and operated stores in Lambeth until 1956. He was in the Manchester Branch for two years and then moved to the Farmington area.

CHURCH: Bishop will uphold policy

(Continued from page 13)

that they were victimized. "All they see are dollar signs. It's strictly a money-grab."

Mahon disagrees. He admits that there have been false allegations made over the years, but said he believes that most people's motives are pure.

"If someone is deeply wounded, they may hold that secret for years because of the shame and pain." For them, he says, divulging the past is necessary for the healing process.

Vlazny, in a preface to the sexual misconduct policy, says the church painfully acknowledges that it is not immune from the destructiveness of sexual misconduct.

"None of us can feel secure or comfortable until we, as a church, have effectively and honestly confronted this terrible reality."

Vlazny, in his policy pledge, said no known diagnosed pedophile will be allowed to serve as an ordained or unclothed priest.

Discovery of chemical spill halts sale of St. Peter land

By ROSS GERSTEN
Free Press Staff Writer

ST. PETER — The discovery of a chemical spill beneath property expected to be used for a city parking lot put a temporary halt to the almost completed purchase of the property Monday.

The extent of the spill, discovered during a test required in the property transfer, and the cost of cleanup are unknown.

On a 4-3 vote Monday, the City Council postponed an option agreement with Swanson Enterprises, owner of Ginny May Donuts, and agreed to start eminent domain proceedings to acquire the property.

Tax-backed store expansion gains approval

ST. PETER — The use of tax-increment financing to support the renovation of a local grocery store won City Council support Monday.

The donut shop is located on the site of an old gas station. Underground tanks were removed years ago, but the contaminant is presumed to be gasoline or diesel fuel.

According to state and federal laws, if the city acquires the property through eminent domain or through negotiations after the eminent domain process begins, it isn't liable for the cleanup. City Economic Development Director Bruce Eisenhauer said.

Swanson agreed to the process, and a new agreement could be forged soon after the eminent domain process begins, City Administrator Dan Jordet said.

Jordet said the eminent domain

move is a precursor to a major expansion in the future.

The \$70,000 would include a \$75,000 low-interest loan from a

process and new negotiations aren't expected to delay the development of the lot, scheduled to be completed in October.

The cleanup qualifies for the state Petrofund, which would pay for up to 90 percent of up to \$1 million, Eisenhauer said. The remaining cleanup costs would be paid by either Swanson or Skelly Oil Co., which installed the tanks.

The city was prepared to pay \$125,000 for the property. However, the discovery of the chemical spill may reduce the market value and the ultimate purchase price.

The property is one of several the city is in the process of buying to create an estimated 100-stall municipal parking lot.

based on the expected increase in property value through improvements. Payments would begin in 1995. The risk in tax-

RE-ELECTION

(Continued from p

conservative was said Knapp, whether it would be a city leader in have been a challenge.

Other agenda meeting included: Ringling for permit circus in town, a meeting to extend a rail li



St. Paul attorney's notoriety stems from suing priests for sex abuse

LAWRENCE I. SHULRUFF NEW YORK TIMES

CHICAGO

Jeffrey Anderson says he is used to the invective. On the wall of his office in St. Paul is a letter calling him a "bigoted, shyster lawyer." Another writer called him "scum maggot"; someone else, the "Antichrist."

"I do get mail that is vitriolic and hate-filled," he said. "But for every one of those, I get 20 letters of support."

Anderson's notoriety stems from an unusual specialty: litigation against Catholic priests accused of molesting children. Admirers and detractors alike say Anderson, one of the first lawyers to sue church officials over sexual abuse, has changed the way these types of cases are handled and how the church deals with errant priests.

"I think church officials fear him because they see his record," said Jason Berry, author of "Lead Us Not Into Temptation" (Doubleday, 1992), a book about priests and pedophilia. "He has not lost many of his cases, and he has extracted millions of dollars for his clients."

Anderson, 45, says he has 200 cases pending in 27 states on behalf of clients who say they were molested by priests. In nine years, his practice has almost exclusively consisted of such cases, and seven lawyers in his firm handle little else. On Thursday, for instance, he was in Chicago representing a woman who had accused a priest of molesting her son in 1986. She gave a deposition to lawyers for the Archdiocese of Chicago, which has filed a countersuit against her.

The problem of sexual abuse by priests is now widely acknowledged by the church itself; just this month the National Conference of Catholic Bishops set up a panel to investigate it, and Pope John Paul II pledged to help the bishops use church law to help rid the priesthood of molesters.



In 1984, when Anderson took his first case, the problem was far from well-known. A colleague referred a case to him involving Greg Riedle, a former altar boy who said he had been molested for two years by the Rev. Thomas Paul Adamson, a well-liked Minnesota priest.

Anderson, who was reared as a Lutheran in Minnesota, had no particular background in this kind of case. But he says that when he investigated the charges against Adamson, he learned that the priest had been accused by other youths and that the church knew of the charges but did not remove him from the priesthood.

He filed a lawsuit against the priest, the archdiocese, the diocese and the parish. The suit was settled three years later. Although he will not disclose the terms, it has been widely reported that the church paid more than \$1 million.

Joan Bernel, director of communications for the archdiocese, said Adamson was no longer a priest. She added that he had been ordained elsewhere and that local church officials had been unfamiliar with his background. "We've learned a lot about the problem since then," she said. "There's a lot of sadness around this issue."

Today, she said, the backgrounds of candidates for the clergy are checked. She also said the archdiocese offered treatment and counseling to victims.

Anderson says that with the publicity from the Adamson case, the "floodgates opened," and he received phone calls from others who said they, too, had been victimized by Adamson. He ended up filing a dozen other cases against the priest. Three are pending and eight settled. In the one that went to trial, his client was awarded \$800,000 in compensatory damages and \$2.7 million in punitive damages. It was the first time for

such an award against the Catholic Church in the United States, he said.

Charges against clergy members are particularly difficult to prove, Anderson said, because jurors and judges may have difficulty believing an accuser instead of a priest.

The calendar is another obstacle. In most states, a lawsuit must be filed within two or three years of the time the assault is said to have occurred. "Because the victims are so young, they don't report it when it happens," Anderson said.

In response, he helped draft a Minnesota law that gives plaintiffs six years to file suit from the time they realized there had been sexual abuse. Twelve other states, he said, have adopted similar statutes and five states, including New York, are considering them.

Anderson is paid on a contingency basis, receiving 33 percent to 40 percent of the awards or settlements paid to his clients. They have been paid from \$25,000 to more than \$1 million, he said. "I like getting paid. I make no apologies for that. But that isn't what motivates me."

The Rev. Andrew Greeley, a sociologist, novelist and newspaper columnist who has frequently written about pedophilia and the clergy, said that to many priests, Anderson is a villain motivated by greed. "I say that if the church dealt with this issue properly, there wouldn't be any money to be made. He's a damned good lawyer. He wins his cases. That is what a lawyer is supposed to do."

Not everyone believes that the courtroom is the best place to resolve these disputes. Mark Chopko, general counsel of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, said conflicts should be resolved by victims and church officials, not by a jury or a judge. "Lawyers should stay out of this business as much as possible," he said. "We are talking about a process of healing and reconciliation. That is what churches do best."

Anderson said litigation was needed to force church officials to change the way they respond to abuse charges.



Anderson

Questions surrounding memories

► For victims of childhood abuse, did it really happen?

By Amy Kuebelbeck
Associated Press
CARDALE, Minn. — Desperate to emerge from a dark depression, Elizabeth Carlson sought therapy. What she got instead was a terrifying belief that she had repressed memories of satanic ritual abuse as a child.

With hypnosis and mind-altering drugs, she became convinced she had created multiple personalities, including animals and a nun, to deal with sexual assaults by her parents, neighbors and godmother.

But most devastating, Carlson said, is that she now realizes the abuse never happened.

She is part of a growing movement that questions whether all memories of abuse, especially those retrieved years after the fact, are true.

"The books all say, 'Don't doubt,' said Carlson, who is using her therapist. "I'm saying, 'If you do have thoughts that flash into your head, challenge them.'"

Such skepticism comes as a challenge to the idea that children sometimes repress memories of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, but can regain those memories as adults through psychotherapy.

Many such cases have given rise to lawsuits and even criminal charges. Chicago's Roman Catholic Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, for example, is the defendant in a civil lawsuit over alleged sexual abuse filed by a man who says he recovered memories of abuse while in therapy.

The skeptical viewpoint is gaining some ground. The American Medical Association this year adopted a resolution saying that memory enhancement techniques in the area of childhood sexual abuse are " fraught with problems of potential misapplication."

But some people with recovered memories of abuse have been able to verify their suspicions. And some experts who believe memories can be repressed say the skeptics are part of a backlash that doesn't want to admit the prevalence of abuse.

"I sure hope we don't let a bunch of accused perpetrators decide what public policy is going to be on memory repression," said Ronco Fredrickson, a St. Paul therapist and author of "Repressed Memories."

She contends millions of people have buried memories of trauma or even entire childhoods.

The standard-bearer for the "false memory" movement is the Philadelphia-based False Memory Syndrome Foundation, made up of families who say they have been wrongly accused of abuse. Formed only last year, the group already claims 7,000 families as members.

The group was formed after parents seeking solace found patterns. Most accused were women between 25 and 45 who had entered therapy for issues such as relationship problems, according to Director Pamela Freud. Confessions with families were similar, and many daughters cited the "bible" of the incest-recovery movement, "The Courage to Heal" by Ellen Beer and Laura Davis.

"If you are unable to remember any specific instances... but still have a feeling that something abusive happened to you, it probably did," the book says in a much-quoted passage.

Parents who protest their innocence say allegations of sexual

abuse have not thousands of copies across the country in a Catch-22: If they deny it, they're "in denial." Either way, they effectively lose their children.

"The only defense we've got is to say, 'We didn't do this,'" said Terry Stone, mayor of the southern Minnesota city of Madelia, pop. 2,237.

One of his nine children accuses Stone and his wife, Collette, of sexually abusing her from infancy through age 18; the daughter said she retrieved the memories after entering therapy. The therapist also counseled the other eight children.

Stone and his wife deny any abuse, and the daughter who made the accusation has no contact with the family.

Although the Stones hope for reconciliation with their daughter, they are angry about the therapy. But some contend that in general, abuse is far more common than malpractice by therapists.

"There may be some excesses by therapists going on... (but) a lot of people have been sexually abused," said Sherry Quirk, president of the American Coalition for Abuse Awareness in Washington, D.C.

The highly publicized case of James Porter, the former Roman Catholic priest who pleaded guilty to molesting dozens of children, provides a counterpoint to the "false memory" movement, some say.

Frank Fitzpatrick, a private investigator in Cranston, N.J., had no memories of being molested until 1980. Then, with no therapy, images began seeping back. Unlike many accusers, he was able to confirm the memories by tracking Porter's trail.

Porter even confirmed Fitzpatrick's recollection of a rumored incest plot.

"It's much more prevalent that sexual assault is covered up and hidden and never exposed," said Fitzpatrick, who says most of Porter's victims did not repress their memories.

Richard Gardner, a professor of child psychiatry at Columbia University and author of "Sex Abuse Hysteria: Salem With Triska Hektica," estimates that 95 percent of sex-abuse accusations are valid. But he says the "tragic plight" of those falsely accused must be addressed.

Claims must be more carefully reviewed, especially in fierce custody disputes, day-care centers and memories recovered in therapy.

"Skeptics say false memories also have another victim — the accuser."

"The therapists who are doing this are a new kind of sexual predator," said Richard Olsho, a social psychologist at the University of California at Berkeley. "Without ever touching their victim, they move them as close as you can possibly get to experience rape and brutalization... And they get paid by the hour for doing it."

Why would someone believe in events that never happened? Carlson said she was suicidal and vulnerable and trusted her therapist. She said Dr. Diane Bay Humannsky required her to watch films and read books about abuse, and subtle cues and nightmares were interpreted as factual memories.

"My imagination and my dreams were really, and if I doubled it, I was in denial," Carlson said. Humannsky, who faces at least three similar lawsuits in St. Paul, denies the allegations.

Carlson also says becoming a victim had benefits.

"It's support you've never received in your entire life," she said. "Everybody's hugging and warm



Psychologist Renee Fredrickson, author of "Repressed Memories," sits in her St. Paul office last week.



Elizabeth Carlson, founder of the National Association for Fraud in Psychotherapy, sits in her home in Stillwater, Minn., last week.

and you're in these groups... You create a new family, it really gives you a sense of belonging."

Wanda Kammer, author of "I'm Dysfunctional, You're Dysfunctional" and a critic of various forms of the "recovery" movement, agrees.

"There is no regard for truth in all of this," Kammer said. "Instead of a regard for truth, we have a regard for feelings."

Experts do not agree on the truth of repressed memories or if they even exist, but they do agree that human memory is not like a video cassette player, faithfully replaying the same scenes. Some researchers have successfully planted false memories.

More lawsuits over delayed memories are becoming possible as

states extend statutes of limitations. In one Minnesota case, a 60-year-old man faces a lawsuit over allegations half a century old, after his 65-year-old daughter recovered alleged abuse memories in therapy.

"If this keeps up, nobody's going to believe anybody anymore," said Hollida Wakefield, a psychologist at the Institute for Psychological Therapies in Northfield, who is skeptical of memory repression.

For Elizabeth Carlson, one small consolation is that she never formally confronted her parents and accused them of crimes they didn't commit.

"My family would have been horribly devastated," she said. "I don't know how I could ever repair the damage I had caused had I done that."

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1/28/2007 1:36:15 PM

Abusive priest slipped under radar

Nursing home background check failed to alert employer

Julian Emerson

Leader-Telegram Staff

ALTOONA — For years Thomas Adamson's kindly face was a familiar sight at Oakwood Villa nursing home, assisting with activities for elderly residents and offering the caring, personal touch of a priest.

But apparently unbeknownst to nursing home visitors, residents and administrators, Adamson, 73, carried a dark, heavy secret — one that threatened to derail his career and reputation yet again.

The man known by those at Oakwood for his pleasant, friendly demeanor is considered one of the nation's most notorious pedophile priests, with claims by 30 people that he sexually assaulted them, beginning in 1959 and continuing at least into the 1980s. Experts estimate he likely has abused as many as 100 boys, and Minnesota Catholic dioceses have paid an estimated \$6 million in lawsuit settlements as a result of Adamson's actions.

Adamson's past eventually caught up with him and led to his recent dismissal from his Altoona nursing home job. On Jan. 11 directors of the Wisconsin and Minnesota chapters of Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP) notified nursing home administrators about Adamson's previous activities, which include a dozen lawsuits alleging he sexually assaulted boys over a 30-year period. He now lives in Altoona.

Despite the publicity surrounding

allegations of Adamson's past transgressions, members of organizations that monitor priest sex offenders had lost track of Adamson since the early 1990s.

That changed in the early afternoon of Jan. 11, when Apple Valley, Minn., resident Jack Klein — who filed a lawsuit five years ago claiming Adamson had sexually assaulted him — and SNAP directors Peter Isley and Bob Schwiderski confronted Adamson in the Oakwood Villa parking lot. Two reporters witnessed the confrontation.

'Why did you do it? Why?' an emotional Klein questioned Adamson. 'Do you remember me? Do you remember what you did?'

Adamson appeared somewhat startled to see Klein, although he spoke with him briefly. Adamson acknowledged knowing Klein's parents, but he denied having abused Klein. When Klein persisted, Adamson finally responded, 'I'm sorry.'

Adamson wasn't talking with others about his past that day, refusing to answer reporters' questions.

While such confrontations may seem aggressive, Isley, Wisconsin's SNAP director, said they're necessary to combat the clandestine movement by the Catholic Church of problem priests from one place to another. Isley, along with Schwiderski, Minnesota's SNAP director, and others believe either the Winona Diocese or the Minneapolis-St. Paul Archdiocese transferred Adamson to Wisconsin sometime in the late 1980s or early 1990s in a move designed to keep his whereabouts secret.

'We have a responsibility to do this, Schwiderski said. 'The people at that nursing home and the people of this community deserve to know who this guy really is.'

Given Adamson's track record of abuse and questions about whether he has received treatment, Isley wonders whether he

committed further abuses while working at Oakwood Villa and called for an investigation.

Nursing home administrators said Adamson didn't receive or require special supervision while working there.

'Why would they have supervised him? They didn't know who they were dealing with,' Isley said.

Oakwood Villa officials refused to reveal how long Adamson worked at the facility, but others with ties to the facility said he was there for at least five years. He began volunteering to assist nursing home residents with various activities and was later hired to do that job part time, said Pete Leer, nursing home administrator. No concerns were raised about improper behavior by Adamson, Leer said.

Adamson did not provide one-on-one care for residents, Leer said, nor did he act as a chaplain. The nursing home conducted a criminal background check on Adamson similar to that used for all other employees and didn't find any problems that prevented his hiring, Leer said.

'(Adamson) was well-liked by staff, residents and families,' Leer said.

David Clohessy, national SNAP director, said he was alarmed to hear Adamson was working at a nursing home. While it may seem unlikely a former priest with Adamson's history of abusing boys would take advantage of nursing home residents, those calling Oakwood Villa home were at risk of abuse with Adamson around, Clohessy said.

Transferring abusive priests to nursing homes is a common move by Catholic bishops looking to hide those who have committed sex crimes, said Anne Doyle, co-director of Waltham, Mass.-based BishopAccountability.org, a group that publishes records and other material on priests accused of those crimes.

'Adamson's case illustrates why this is such a huge problem. You don't know where these people are,' Doyle said.

St. Paul lawyer Jeffrey Anderson has represented a dozen clients who have filed lawsuits against Adamson. He won a \$3.5 million settlement in 1990 for a case against Adamson, the largest award of its kind at that time. The amount was later reduced to \$1.04 million.

Anderson, who has garnered national acclaim representing clients abused by priests, said Adamson makes the who's who list of priest sex offenders nationwide, joining such well-known, dubious figures as Paul Shanley and John J. Geoghan, who made headlines after the much-publicized Boston priest scandal surfaced five years ago. Among the most prominent church figures involved in sex scandals, Adamson's name appears in hundreds of priest sex abuse news stories ranging from Time magazine to The New York Times.

'This guy is a compulsive, serial predator,' Anderson said of Adamson. 'Of all of the priest abuse cases, there are a handful of offenders who have emerged as the most heinous, the most prolific, and he is among them.'

Continued abuses

Records show reports of Adamson's sex assaults against males surfaced shortly after his May 31, 1958 ordination.

Court depositions from the mid- and late 1980s reveal Adamson in 1959 engaged in sexual relations with two adult males — one a priest and one a serviceman.

Then, in 1961, while serving as an assistant principal, teacher and basketball coach in southwestern Minnesota, Adamson lured an eighth-grade boy into a longtime sexual relationship.

As time went on Adamson made sexual advances toward more boys, and word of his improper actions filtered back to his

superiors. Finally, as charges of sexual misconduct mounted, Adamson's Winona Diocese supervisors transferred him to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, where he became known for his willingness to minister to youth.

Aided by Adamson's charming personality, the cycle of abuse started again, records show, continuing until archdiocese leaders placed him on a leave of absence in December 1984.

In 1983 Anderson took on his first client claiming sex abuse by Adamson. By the late 1980s, the lawyer represented several others claiming Adamson had assaulted them.

Records show church leaders referred Adamson for treatment for his sexual problems, a sign they knew of his transgressions. But they refused to report him to law enforcement authorities, instead shuffling him from parish to parish, where more reports of abuse surfaced.

Winona and Minneapolis-St. Paul diocese leaders have contended they didn't know the extent of Adamson's abuse of boys. But church documents made public during court cases against Adamson paint a different picture, detailing how Adamson was allowed to continue working with children despite repeated complaints about his sexual assaults to his superiors.

SCHOOL FUNDING LAYS A LIT

A TOAST TO BAR TIME

While details of the session's weightiest bills created headaches for lawmakers Thursday, a few joined the governor to toast a small victory: a deal that would allow bars to stay open an hour later.

The agreement would permit cities to extend bar closing to 2 a.m. Businesses choosing to take advantage of the option would pay a fee of between \$200 and \$600, depending on volume of liquor sales.

The new hours would take effect Aug. 1. That's expected to bring in about \$6 million over the next two years, with the money being used to put more state troopers on the road.

ST. PAUL (AP) — A wee-hour deal Thursday cleared the way for votes on a nearly \$11.9 billion finance package for preschool through adult learning programs, by far the largest chunk of the state's budget.

Legislators were hoping to get the plan to Gov. Tim Pawlenty before adjourning for the night.

After accounting for payment shifts — including delaying some aid checks to districts — the bill reduces education funding by \$185 million from the current-law level. That's roughly a 2 percent cut. Before shifts, it's a \$621 million cut. Early childhood and family education programs take a 20 percent hit.

GOP House negotiators touted the plan as "fair and balanced for all schools in the state." Their DFL Senate counterparts took a dimmer view, with Sen. Steve Kelley of Hopkins predicting "an acceleration of class sizes and program reductions" in many districts.

"Some districts will have to do

more cuts than they were thinking about," Kelley said. "The governor failed in his promise to protect the classroom."

House Education Finance Chairwoman Alice Seagren, R-Bloomington responded: "The hysteria is a little bit overblown. I am not hearing huge cries of pain."

For K-12 schools, the bedrock per-pupil formula will remain at \$4,601 for the next two years. Other funding streams, however, are altered.

Less money will be available for districts that rely on state aid to run after-school and summer-school programs. Extra assistance to offset the cost of teaching students English as a second language will be granted for only five years per student instead of the current indefinite period.

The state will pick up a higher share of local property taxes when districts get levies approved by voters. The levy cap will also rise, helping many suburban districts that have maxed out.

■ **Whether to borrow** against future revenues to boost spending on roads or bridges or use money from an existing account.

■ **Whether to change** the way the state delivers health care so the state would agree to cover only a limited number of doctor's services.

■ **Whether to change** the state's welfare programs to make them stricter on work requirements and make other changes, such as banning people from buying junk food with food stamps.

■ **What projects** to include in a bonding bill, which would authorize \$150 million to \$210 million in state borrowing for construction projects.

■ **Whether and how** to change the formula that distributes money from the state to local municipalities. Pawlenty on Tuesday said that issue would likely be the last to be resolved.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty said he suggested to House Speaker Steve Sviggum that if House Democrats refused to suspend rules and allow bills to be brought up on the floor as they finished, the House should meet over the weekend to "see if that doesn't create an incentive."

TA000332

Altar boy's suit accuses priest of abuse, seeks \$50,000

By Jerome Christenson
Winona Daily News

An anonymous plaintiff is suing the Diocese of Winona for damages resulting from a sexual assault he claims took place 36 years ago.

The suit was filed in February in Ramsey County District Court and has been transferred to Winona County District Court after a successful change of venue motion by the diocese. The suit seeks damages "in excess of \$50,000" plus attorneys' fees and other costs.

The plaintiff, identified in court

■ **The suit specifically charges the diocese with negligence, sexual battery, fiduciary fraud and breach of fiduciary duty.**

documents only as John Doe 76A, claims he was sexually abused in 1967 when he was 13 to 14 years old, by the Rev. Thomas Adamson, then a priest serving the Diocese of Winona. The suit claims that as a result of the abuse the plaintiff "has

suffered and will continue to suffer great pain of mind and body" which required medical and psychological treatment.

Court documents filed on behalf of the plaintiff state he was "raised in a devout Roman Catholic family, served as an altar boy" and was an active, practicing member of the church. His devotion to the church and respect for the clergy made him particularly vulnerable to Adamson's advances and made them particularly damaging, the suit says. The suit claims that the "sexual abuse and the circumstances under

which it occurred" led the plaintiff to develop psychological "coping mechanisms, including denial and disassociation from his experiences."

"Plaintiff did not know, nor did he have reason to know, that he had been sexually abused and/or that his injuries were caused by his sexual abuse until recently," the complaint states. The suit claims that the diocese "recently ... promised to pay for therapy for the plaintiff" but subsequently backed out of that pledge.

The suit specifically charges the

Please see SUIT/3A

over

From Page 1A

diocese with negligence, sexual battery, fiduciary fraud, and breach of fiduciary duty.

Adamson was accused of sexual misconduct in a number of suits filed in the 1980s against the Archdiocese of St. Paul and the Diocese of Winona. Adamson admitted having sexual contact with boys while a priest, teacher

and school administrator for the Diocese of Winona, beginning in 1961 and continuing after he was transferred to the St. Paul archdiocese in 1975. In one of those cases, a jury in 1990 initially awarded \$2.7 million in punitive damages to a former Columbia Heights altar boy who had been abused by Adamson. That award that was significantly reduced on appeal.

The case for John Doe 76A is being handled by St. Paul attorney Jeffrey Anderson, the same attorney who represented the Columbia Heights man.

Telephone calls to attorneys for the plaintiff and the diocese and a designated diocesan spokesman were not returned Thursday.



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2/4/2007 1:32:37 PM

Another dark chapter for the church

Another chapter in the sad, sordid history of clergy abuse was outlined in last Sunday's Leader-Telegram.

After nearly 20 years in obscurity, a disgraced Roman Catholic priest who admitted to sexually abusing boys was discovered last month working with another vulnerable population — residents of Oakwood Villa nursing home in Altoona.

The nursing home quickly fired Thomas Adamson, 73, and there's no evidence he acted inappropriately at the facility. Nonetheless, it's troubling that a man with a long history of abuse would find his way into such a position of trust. We hope a thorough investigation into his conduct at the nursing home will be forthcoming.

According to documents unearthed as part of a civil lawsuit in the 1980s, church leaders in Minnesota learned of Adamson's pedophilic tendencies shortly after he was ordained in 1958. In legal depositions, Adamson admitted to having sexual relationships with a number of boys over the years. While he received counseling, he was moved from parish to parish by the church, which never referred him to criminal authorities. Adamson's abuse eventually led to a multimillion-dollar settlement between the church and one of his victims.

Though long disgraced and apparently no longer active in ministry, Adamson remains the subject of several lawsuits. He also remains a priest, and apparently is still financially supported by the Diocese of Winona.

Last month, he was tracked to Eau Claire and confronted by members of the Minnesota and Wisconsin chapters of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests, including a Minnesota man who said Adamson abused him as a teen.

The saga raises several troubling questions. First, why didn't Adamson's church superiors report him to criminal authorities decades ago, when allegations against him first surfaced? If so, he may have been criminally convicted. Such convictions presumably would appear on a background check, such as the one Oakwood Villa said it conducted.

We hope abuse claims are treated differently today. As a lay panel assigned by Catholic bishops to study the clergy abuse scandal reported in 2004, the incidents were a failing of not only the abusive priests but also of church leaders: 'These leadership failings have been shameful to the Church as both a central institution in the lives of the faithful and a moral force in the secular world, and have aggravated the harm suffered by victims and their families.'

Unfortunately, the statute of limitations has long expired on Adamson's alleged crimes. One possible remedy would be to extend the statute of limitations for sexual abuse against children, as has been considered in some states. Another would be to allow the use of civil court settlements in abuse cases as grounds to deny employment — if such a thing can be done constitutionally.

Another pertinent question: Given Adamson's abusive behavior, which apparently defied treatment, why is he still receiving financial support from the church, and why wasn't he defrocked? Forgiveness has an important place in Catholic doctrine, but so does penance. If ecclesiastical and civil authorities find priests such as Adamson guilty of such dark deeds, they must pay some price — if not a prison term, then perhaps the loss of a priestly collar.

— Tom Giffey, editorial page editor

census study determined.

numbers are significant.

Anti-Catholic bias

THE Daily Globe published a story about a priest this week which falls in a category of stories about which readers deserve some additional comment. The story of the priest was news, to be sure. It met all the usual criteria. What is more, it was a story from The Associated Press. Thus it went to all the television stations and radio stations and metropolitan newspapers; in this instance the Daily Globe was only following with the crowd.

The point to be made is the substantial evidence that there is an established trend which can be interpreted as an anti-Catholic bias in the news media. There are Protestant pastors who involve themselves in criminal sexual conduct or in sexual conduct which offends the teachings or tenets of their denominations, to be sure. There are Protestant pastors and church workers who get caught in petty thefts, who pass bad checks, who are arrested for DWI, who experiment

with drugs.

Rare is the story in the news media, however, about scandal which attends the preacher or the preacher's wife or the Christian education director. By contrast, the trespasses of a priest in Louisiana (as a specific case in point) are trumpeted in the national news media. A bishop arrested for driving while drinking (another case in point) is accorded prominent front page coverage. Rest homes/treatment centers for Catholic clergy, stories of alcoholic priests, are routine grist for the news feature mills.

In a sense perhaps all this is in fact a compliment. It suggests that there is an enduring high expectation from representatives of the Roman Catholic vocations and a general public respect for these offices. In any event, and though the trespasses may be forgiven, notice of them is first posted in bold letters and in a prominent place.

February 6, 1987 day in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 1987. There are 328 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 6, 1952, Britain's King George VI died. He was succeeded to the throne by his daughter, Elizabeth II.

ON THIS DATE:

In 1756, America's third vice president, Aaron Burr, was born in Newark, N.J.

In 1778, the United States won official recognition from France as the two nations signed a pair of treaties in Paris.

In 1895, baseball legend Babe Ruth was born in Baltimore.

In 1899, a peace treaty between the United States and Spain was ratified by the Senate.

Worthington Daily Globe

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Secret Past Surfaces: Altoona Residents React

Altoona residents say they had no idea a priest who's been accused of sexual abuse several times has been living in their city for years.

Thomas Adamson first became a priest in the Diocese of Winona (Minnesota) in 1958. Records show 30 people accused him of sexual assault over the next 25 years. That led to 12 lawsuits.

In 1990, a former altar boy who was abused by Adamson was awarded almost \$1 million in one of those lawsuits. Other lawsuits that were filed against him through the years were settled out of court.

In 1984, Adamson moved to the Chippewa Valley after being put on a leave of absence by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. He worked part-time at Oakwood Villa Nursing Home in Altoona until January 11th of this year. According to the Leader-Telegram, that's when directors of the Wisconsin and Minnesota chapters of Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP) notified nursing home administrators about Adamson's history.

Authorities say there are no signs Adamson committed any crimes while living in western Wisconsin. His neighbors say they are still shocked.

"I don't think he needs to be around areas with kids at all, that's for sure... anywhere near parks or schools. That's not a good place for him," says Skye Ashley, an Altoona resident.

Police say Adamson has been a model citizen since he's been here. They say he is not on a sex offender registry because the lawsuits against him went through civil court and he was never convicted of criminal sexual assault.

Updated: 2007-01-30 19:12:22



STATEMENT

Diocese of Winona

55 West Sanborn, PO Box 588, Winona, MN 55987



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 18, 2007

CONTACT:
ROSE A. HAMMES
Director of Communications
(507) 454-4643
(507) 450-1997 cell

S T A T E M E N T
REVISED
REGARDING THOMAS ADAMSON
DIOCESE OF WINONA
January 18, 2007

Thomas Adamson was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Winona on May 31, 1958. He served as a priest in the Diocese of Winona until the early 1982. Then he served for a few years as a priest in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. In 1984 Adamson was put on permanent leave of absence from ministry as a priest by the bishop of Winona. In the late 1980s, Adamson, the Diocese of Winona, and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis were involved in civil suits regarding sexual misconduct perpetrated by Adamson. **Adamson remains on permanent leave of absence. He is not employed by the Diocese of Winona and is no longer a resident of Minnesota. He receives a monthly pension benefit from the Pension Plan for Priests of the Diocese of Winona, a benefit the Pension Plan is required to pay him for the years he served as a priest of the Diocese of Winona.**

Since the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* was adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Dallas in 2002, the Diocese of Winona has been diligent in implementing all of the *Charter's* directives. **Although they are not involved in any public church ministry whatsoever, the Diocese of Winona continues to monitor the men who come under the directives of the *Charter*.** The Diocese of Winona has been in full compliance with the *Charter* in each of the annual audits conducted by the independent firm, The Gavin Group, for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

TA000034

 **FILE**

**FROM THE DESK OF
Tom Adamson**

February 26, 2007

Dear PJ,

Enclosed please find my "Monthly Report to Bishop."

It has been about a dozen days since I returned to Eau Claire after spending a few days in Southern California with priest friends. Everything seems more calm than when I left. I have moved into a routine schedule as best I can. I have had no contacts from media persons or any other hostile agents. No one else has approached me in a negative manner.

I have casually met a few people whom I know quite well as well as some with whom I am less acquainted. There has been nothing negative. For example, it was hard to face my barber who has assisted me for about 15 years. After 20 years in this community there are many familiar faces.

There was only one "letter to the editor" in the local newspaper following the lengthy article of Sunday January 28th which I forwarded to you. There was also an article from an officer of the SNAP organization.

I am trying to move forward, trying to avoid paranoia and self pity. Each day there are times when all that transpired the last few weeks seems unreal. Even in the midst of it, it is hard to imagine how Jeff Anderson can be so single-minded. Nothing matters except what he thinks is right and what serves his purposes, always half truths, the negatives, the exaggerations.

I could not have imagined anything so vicious and hate-filled, even after all my previous experiences.

Thanks for your help.

In Our Lord,



TA000420



MONTHLY REPORT TO BISHOP

This self-reporting mechanism shall include:

- A regular Monthly Report completed by the priest at the request of the Bishop, submitted to the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator.
- Periodic meetings to be held by telephone conference with the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator for review of the submitted Monthly Report.
- Two meetings annually with the bishop or his delegate.

Name: Thomas P Adamson

Date of Report: Feb 26, 2007

Ongoing Formation and Pastoral Care

- a. After-care Plan/Follow-up Plan or Personal Plan Write a brief summary of how you follow a daily plan for healthy living. If you are not following a plan, explain why? What are your plans to fulfill the incomplete components of your plan?

Spiritual life is the basis: daily Mass, Divine Office, Rosary, visits to Blessed Sacrament, Scripture.
Good friends and support people -
Attend some AA-anon meetings
Have some professionals I can call when in special crisis as I have been in recent weeks.
Good physical exercise habits.

- b. Health and Medication Follow-up Describe how you attend to your general health through regular check-ups and daily exercise. Please list any medications currently prescribed.

Do a general physical at Mayo biennially.
Have a local Doctor for regular check-ups e.g. Blood pressure, cholesterol etc.
Meds: Lisinopril, Metoprolol, Norvasc, Lipitor

- c. Spiritual Formation Describe how spiritual and pastoral living and formation are a part of your daily life. Daily Mass, Divine office, Daily visits to Blessed Sacrament, Daily Rosary, Read some Scripture daily, Have added stations of Cross in Lent.

Do you have and make regular use of spiritual direction?

Yes - made a retreat in January 2007 -
Have a spiritual director -
Talk frankly with several priest friends.

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Other Areas

Do you have access to the internet? YES NO.
If yes, how often and for how much time?

Have you come across, or accessed yourself, any inappropriate or pornographic websites while using the internet? YES NO Please describe.

Are there any other areas in your life that pose problems for you? Please explain.

Media Hassles - ongoing -
The onslaught began in late summer of 2006
and intensified on January 10 and 11, 2007. Attorney
Anderson, egomaniac, took on role of police, psychologists,
and every other body and I am in the middle
of his vicious hate for priests and church.

Contact with Minors

1. Have you been in the company of minors without another adult present since the last report?

YES NO

If so, please describe the circumstances of each instance.

JUST NO CONTACTS whatsoever

2. Have you been in the presence of minors with another adult present? YES NO

If so, please explain the circumstances of each instance.

Only incidentally, for example in a
supermarket, church, etc - Even with
that generality I can't think of even
one instance in the past month

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d. Prayer Life Describe how you have kept the Eucharist the center of daily life.

Celebrate Eucharist each day and prepare
carefully for each by pre-reading of daily scriptures,
Make a visit to Blessed Sacrament daily.
When life seems hopeless and/or without direction
or meaning, Eucharist provides some stability.

Are you faithful daily to the Liturgy of the Hours? YES NO If not, why not?

Always do the Breviary. Sometimes it is a
little rushed or perfunctory and other times
is quite reflective.

How do you include personal prayer/contemplation into daily life?

Abundant personal prayer - pray for self and others.
I have some prayer booklets and other aids.
I hope it is quality prayer - at least
I spend a lot of time at it.

Support Systems

Describe systems of support that you have in place and how you use them to continue to be healthy. Do you meet on a regular basis?

Support Groups -

My priest friends are the best; support time; don't
meet on any regular schedule but do meet frequently.
When I was very upset and tense the last
month I went & spent some time with priest friends.
I go to some Al-anon - Realize many have heavy problems.
Some good family support - I have 2 or 3
sisters who are very level headed & I share
with them.

Counseling Services -

I go to some Al-anon and generally come
away with the conviction that several others
have problems much worse than mine.

Sponsor(s) -

Mainly through priest friends - I hear the echo
from several saying they are there for me
and that they will walk with me.

Other -

I have an attorney who is a great
support beyond the strictly legal things.
Had a lot of support from Nursing Home
staff following my upheaval there last month.

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Domicile (Residency)

Please list your current address and contact information below for verification purposes.

Note: If you relocate or change contact information, please notify the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator of the change immediately.

Street Address: 943 Vernon St. #7

City, State, Zip Code: Altoona WI 54720

Telephone: 715 835 0716

Cellular Phone: None

Email Address: None

For all Mailings use
Box 3034
Fau Claire WI 54702

Do you have a Quasi-domicile (ie: cabin) where you spend time away overnight?

YES

NO

If so, how often do you spend time at this location?

Have you spent time away overnight from your primary domicile or quasi-domicile?

YES

NO

Please explain.

Spent 11 nights on vacation with priest friends
Feb 5-16 - was in California. Good, peaceful days
Spent two nights with priest friends in late
January when I was too nervous and scared to
stay in my own apartment.

Additional Comments/Questions Generally speaking, how are things going for you?

Physically I am feeling very good. Spiritually
I am strong and comfortable. But my nerves
are shot. It is getting better and I am
having fewer days when everything seems hopeless.
At the same time the hopelessness turns me more to God.
I have to pinch myself at times to see if the
ambush from Attorney Anderson, T.V. people, Newspaper people
really happened.

Please return in the enclosed self-addressed envelope within ten days of receipt.

4

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ADM. DATE _____
HOUR _____ A.M. _____ P.M.

YEAR NO. _____

FRONT SHEET

NAME Rev. Adamson Thomas P.
Title Last Name First Middle Initial Maiden Name

LEGAL RES 38 S.E. 11th Avenue
Street No. Street
Rochester Minnesota
City State or County
55901 507-288-7313
Zip Code State Code Telephone Number

PERS. PHYS. DR. Curran J.
Last name First Initial

ACCOMP. TO IOL BY Unaccompanied

GROUP 9A Unit Fuller II

BIRTH DATE 7 12 33 40 Minnesota
Mo Da Yr Age Birthplace

PREVIOUS ADM FOR PSYCHIATRIC CONDITION
Yes No

SEX M F MARITAL STATUS SXM W D SEP

Name of Institution Dates

CITIZEN Native Natural Other

IOL _____
Gen Hosp. _____
State Hosp. _____
Federal Hosp. _____
Other Priv. Hosp. _____

RELIGION None Prot Cath Jew Other

ADM TO IOL _____ SIGNED Yes No
VOL. SLIP No _____

Total and Prior Adm. for Psych Condition 0

LEGAL BASIS FOR ADM

LENGTH OF ILLNESS

PATIENT COMES FROM Gen. Hosp. Gen. Hosp.
Psy. Ward Non Psy. Ward

Present Episode Total Duration
Few Several Many Few Several Many
_____ X _____ X

Priv. State Fed.
Psy. Hosp. Hosp. Hosp. Home Other

Days Weeks Months Yrs. Days Weeks Mo. Yrs.
_____ X _____ X

FACTS REGARDING PRESENT ILLNESS AND REASONS FOR PRESENT HOSPITALIZATION

Forty year old patient with long-standing homosexual problem for which he had
brief help in 1968 with only short-term success. Problem has continued
and within the past few months he has been seen in consultation by a priest-psychologist
and the referring psychiatrist, Dr. Tyce, and recommendation made for treatment here.
Exam reveals pleasant, oriented man who appears in no discomfort except that he
reports some apprehension about being here. No gross thought disorder. No obsessions
or compulsions.

PHYSICAL ILLNESS: None.

DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSION: Homosexuality

INTRODUCTOR Elizabeth Latkin 1677

ADM. PHYS. John J. Curran M.D.



MONTHLY REPORT TO BISHOP

This self-reporting mechanism shall include:

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- Periodic meetings to be held by telephone conference with the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator for review of the submitted Monthly Report.
- Two meetings annually with the bishop or his delegate.

Name: Thomas P. Adamson

Date of Report: Nov 29, 2007

Ongoing Formation and Pastoral Care

- a. After-care Plan/Follow-up Plan or Personal Plan Write a brief summary of how you follow a daily plan for healthy living. If you are not following a plan, explain why? What are your plans to fulfill the incomplete components of your plan?

Begins with the spiritual including Daily Eucharist, Divine Office, Rosary, scripture
Regular exercise and physical fitness
Good support people
Try to stay busy and also completely avoid any settings which would be compromising.

- b. Health and Medication Follow-up Describe how you attend to your general health through regular check-ups and daily exercise. Please list any medications currently prescribed.

I have semi-annual physical - which comes up next week - Also will have blood tests including PSA during that time -
Current meds are Lisinopril, Lipitor, Metoprolol, Atildipine

- c. Spiritual Formation Describe how spiritual and pastoral living and formation are a part of your daily life.

Daily Eucharist - Prayer life is good - I think I have good spiritual reading habits as well as keeping up with the Current Literature.

Do you have and make regular use of spiritual direction?

Yes - visit with a local Diocesan Priest and also use the Capuchin priests at Malabar WI where I will be making a Mini-Retreat at the end of this month (Dec).

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Other Areas

Do you have access to the internet? YES NO.
If yes, how often and for how much time?

Have you come across, or accessed yourself, any inappropriate or pornographic websites while using the internet? YES NO Please describe.

Are there any other areas in your life that pose problems for you? Please explain.

Biggest problem seems to be staying busy
in a positive, rewarding way.
I am always on edge waiting for a fresh
legal blow-up or at least related publicity.
Struggle to avoid bitterness and self pity.

Contact with Minors

1. Have you been in the company of minors without another adult present since the last report?
 YES NO
If so, please describe the circumstances of each instance.

2. Have you been in the presence of minors with another adult present? YES NO
If so, please explain the circumstances of each instance.

Had good chats with several nieces
and nephews at Thanksgiving in their
families' homes.

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55 West Sanborn Street • Winona, Minnesota 55987

d. Prayer Life Describe how you have kept the Eucharist the center of daily life.

Daily Mass is a *sine qua non*. I prepare for it, especially the scriptures, and have reflection time after. Christ's promise of giving the "Bread of Life" is very real for me.

Are you faithful daily to the Liturgy of the Hours? YES NO If not, why not?

Always.

How do you include personal prayer/contemplation into daily life?

Some of my personal prayers include Daily Rosary and scripture Reading. I possibly spend more time in reflection than I give myself credit for. Many familiar prayers offered each day.

Support Systems

Describe systems of support that you have in place and how you use them to continue to be healthy. Do you meet on a regular basis?

Support Groups -

A few close priest friends is a central factor. Also I still have opportunity to be with larger priest gatherings on occasion. Family support is quite good, thanksgiving was especially fine.

Counseling Services -

Attend some Al-Anon meetings. I am always on look-out for Lectures and special programs in the area - Several opportunities.

Sponsor(s) -

Don't have any formal sponsor

Other -

Family good social outlets. Daily visits to the Blessed Sacrament give a balance to everything. Interest in athletics and sports in general helps.

3

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL
Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator
55 West Sanborn Street • Winona, Minnesota 55987

Domicile (Residency)

Please list your current address and contact information below for verification purposes.

Note: If you relocate or change contact information, please notify the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator of the change immediately.

Street Address: 943 Vernon St, #7

City, State, Zip Code: Altoona WI 54720

Telephone: 715 835 0716

Cellular Phone: None

Email Address: None

For All Mailings
Please use —
Box 3034
Eau Claire WI 54702

Do you have a Quasi-domicile (ie: cabin) where you spend time away overnight?

YES

NO

If so, how often do you spend time at this location?

Have you spent time away overnight from your primary domicile or quasi-domicile?

YES

NO

Please explain.

One night only - stayed with a priest friend.

Additional Comments/Questions Generally speaking, how are things going for you?

Generally well - But admittedly I take
it a day at a time -
I think there are more pluses than
minuses for me.
I have had no major hassles this
past month

Please return in the enclosed self-addressed envelope within ten days of receipt.

4

MONTHLY REPORT TO BISHOP

This self-reporting mechanism shall include:

- A regular Monthly Report completed by the priest at the request of the Bishop, submitted to the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator.
- Periodic meetings to be held by telephone conference with the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator for review of the submitted Monthly Report.
- Two meetings annually with the bishop or his delegate.

Name: Thomas P Adamson

Date of Report: December 29, '07

Ongoing Formation and Pastoral Care

- a. After-care Plan/Follow-up Plan or Personal Plan Write a brief summary of how you follow a daily plan for healthy living. If you are not following a plan, explain why? What are your plans to fulfill the incomplete components of your plan?

Spiritual foundation which begins with daily Eucharist, Divine Office, Rosary, scripture prayer and study, visits to Blessed Sacrament.
Regular Exercise, good diet and conditioning —
Good friends and support persons —
Positive family contacts —
Avoid any untoward situations

- b. Health and Medication Follow-up Describe how you attend to your general health through regular check-ups and daily exercise. Please list any medications currently prescribed.

Just completed a general physical two weeks ago - essentials were very good
Daily exercise consisting mostly of walking and I swim regularly.
Meds are: Lisinaptil, Lipitor, Amlodipino, metoprolol, and incidental over-the-counter items e.g. 81 mg aspirin.

- c. Spiritual Formation Describe how spiritual and pastoral living and formation are a part of your daily life.

Daily Mass - Prayer habits are good -
I will be making a mini retreat the first of the New Year -

Do you have and make regular use of spiritual direction?

Yes - Local priest plus regular contact with Capuchins at Marathon WI where I will make retreat next week -

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Other Areas

Do you have access to the internet? YES NO.
If yes, how often and for how much time?

Have you come across, or accessed yourself, any inappropriate or pornographic websites while using the internet? YES NO Please describe.

Are there any other areas in your life that pose problems for you? Please explain.

A little boredom
Some ongoing apprehensiveness
the aging process = inevitable
I find so many of today's priests are negative,
seem whiney. Thankfully they are a minority.

Contact with Minors

1. Have you been in the company of minors without another adult present since the last report?
 YES NO
If so, please describe the circumstances of each instance.

2. Have you been in the presence of minors with another adult present? YES NO
If so, please explain the circumstances of each instance.

Only with nieces and nephews when
with their families over the holidays.

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d. Prayer Life Describe how you have kept the Eucharist the center of daily life.

It is. Daily Eucharist - I prepare and reflect.
Recently I have realized more than ever that it
is the Eucharist which differentiates us from all other
religions including most other Christians.
I also make daily prayer time before tabernacle.

Are you faithful daily to the Liturgy of the Hours? YES NO If not, why not?

Always

How do you include personal prayer/contemplation into daily life?

Yes, my personal prayers are regular and frequent.
Some times there is recitation only. My
reflective or contemplative prayer is more
hap-hazard but there is some.

Support Systems

Describe systems of support that you have in place and how you use them to continue to be healthy. Do you meet on a regular basis?

Support Groups -

Centers around a few priest friends. The
dialogue is good and often quite personal -
I have some social friends -
Family support is quite good

Counseling Services -

I go to various lectures and pertinent programs.
Attend Al-anon group -
I think I read more than most and the
topics are widespread

Sponsor(s) -

Nothing very formal

Other -

Have some good hobbies - Follow most
sports on several levels.
Have limited part time work but it helps
me to stay busy -

3

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55 West Sanborn Street • Winona, Minnesota 55987

Domicile (Residency)

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Note: If you relocate or change contact information, please notify the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator of the change immediately.

Street Address: 943 Vernon St #7

City, State, Zip Code: Altoona WI 54720

Telephone: 715 835 0716

For all mailings please use
Box 3034
Eau Claire WI 54702

Cellular Phone: None

Email Address: None

Do you have a Quasi-domicile (ie: cabin) where you spend time away overnight?

YES NO

If so, how often do you spend time at this location?

Have you spent time away overnight from your primary domicile or quasi-domicile?

YES NO Please explain.

One night only - spent it at residence
of a priest friend.

Additional Comments/Questions Generally speaking, how are things going for you?

Mostly positive; Health and spirit seem
above average - Spiritually sound.
Always, day by day, waiting for a fresh
blast from the hate mongers led by
attorney Jeff Anderson.
Looking forward to out-state vacation with
some priests for a few days.

Please return in the enclosed self-addressed envelope within ten days of receipt.

4



MONTHLY REPORT TO BISHOP

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- Periodic meetings to be held by telephone conference with the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator for review of the submitted Monthly Report.
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Name: Thomas P Adamson

Date of Report: February 27, 2008

Ongoing Formation and Pastoral Care

- a. After-care Plan/Follow-up Plan or Personal Plan Write a brief summary of how you follow a daily plan for healthy living. If you are not following a plan, explain why? What are your plans to fulfill the incomplete components of your plan?

Begins with Daily Eucharist and continues with my prayer life including Divine Office, Daily Mass, visit to blessed Sacrament, spiritual Reading esp scripture. I maintain good health.
Daily exercise
Contact with friends and family.
Stay Busy

- b. Health and Medication Follow-up Describe how you attend to your general health through regular check-ups and daily exercise. Please list any medications currently prescribed.

I have biennial checkups mainly to monitor some hypertension and cholesterol levels. Never miss a day without some exercise, generally fairly extensive.
Present medications: Lisinopril, Metoprolol, Atenolol, Lipitor and low dose aspirin.

- c. Spiritual Formation Describe how spiritual and pastoral living and formation are a part of your daily life. Seems to remain at the very center of everything - Daily Mass - prayer habits seem solid.

I have added a couple of things for Lent, namely Stations of the Cross, and a little added Reflective prayer.

Do you have and make regular use of spiritual direction?

Yes - I see a local Diocesan Priest and I have contact with the Capuchin Priests at St Anthony's in Marathon WI.

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FILE

Other Areas

Do you have access to the internet? YES NO.
If yes, how often and for how much time?

Have you come across, or accessed yourself, any inappropriate or pornographic websites while using the internet? YES NO Please describe.

Are there any other areas in your life that pose problems for you? Please explain.

Mainly the ongoing legal threats. I note that Attorney Jeff Anderson works on issues, especially through the media, unrelentingly, in season and out of season. He cons people into doing letters to the editor, e.g. recent ones by O'Connell family of Hudson WI - Anderson is vicious.

Contact with Minors

1. Have you been in the company of minors without another adult present since the last report?
 YES NO
If so, please describe the circumstances of each instance.

2. Have you been in the presence of minors with another adult present? YES NO
If so, please explain the circumstances of each instance.

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d. Prayer Life Describe how you have kept the Eucharist the center of daily life.

It is very important. When I recite the Gospel words "this is my Body, this is my Blood," have always been taken very literally it brings great mystery - I always prepare for and give thanks for the daily Eucharist.

Are you faithful daily to the Liturgy of the Hours? YES NO If not, why not?

How do you include personal prayer/contemplation into daily life?

Yes, I have a variety of personal prayers, some very familiar ones and others more unique. During Lent I am making a renewed effort of trying more contemplative or reflective prayer.

Support Systems

Describe systems of support that you have in place and how you use them to continue to be healthy. Do you meet on a regular basis?

Support Groups -

I have several close priest friends and we meet frequently although not on a formal or scheduled basis. Also have occasional get-together with larger groups of priests and find them supportive. Have some very supportive family members, a few social friends.

Counseling Services -

Attend some al-anon meetings.
Go to some lectures at the University here and at St Bede monastery here when topics seem pertinent.

Sponsor(s) -

Nothing very formal.

Other -

Enjoy following nearly all sports on several levels. Have some part time work.

3

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55 West Sanborn Street • Winona, Minnesota 55987

Domicile (Residency)

Please list your current address and contact information below for verification purposes.

Note: If you relocate or change contact information, please notify the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator of the change immediately.

Street Address: 943 Vernon St # 17

City, State, Zip Code: Altoona WI 54720

Telephone: 715 835 0716

For all mailings please use!

Cellular Phone: None

Box 3034
Eau Claire WI 54702

Email Address: None

Do you have a Quasi-domicile (ie: cabin) where you spend time away overnight?

YES NO

If so, how often do you spend time at this location?

Have you spent time away overnight from your primary domicile or quasi-domicile?

YES

NO

Please explain.

Spent 12 nights with priest friends on an out-of-state vacation.

Additional Comments/Questions

Generally speaking, how are things going for you?

the vacation days were relaxing and uplifting -
I try to look for the positive -
I am always apprehensive about the future -
Lent is usually a positive time for me -
Health remains mostly good.

Please return in the enclosed self-addressed envelope within ten days of receipt.

4

TA000411

April 21, 2008

His Eminence
William Cardinal Levada
Palazzo della Congregazione per la Dottrina della Fede
Piazza del S. Uffizio, 11
00193 Rome
ITALY

FILE COPY

**Re: Dispensation in Favor of Thomas Paul Adamson
Prot. no. 835/2004**

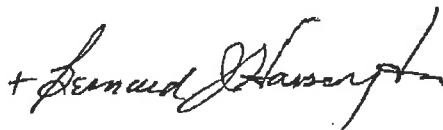
Your Eminence:

In accord with no. 2 of the Rescript of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, by which the favorable response of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI to **Thomas Paul Adamson's** voluntary request for a dispensation from the obligations of the clerical state was communicated, I hereby return to the Congregation a notarized copy of the Rescript signed by myself and the petitioner. As requested (prot. no. 835/2004 - 29143), please also find enclosed a check for \$550.00 USD.

As requested in no. 7 of the Rescript, I would simply report that Bishop John M. Quinn (Coadjutor Bishop of Winona) and I met with Thomas Adamson on April 20 of this year. We informed him that the Holy Father had given a favorable response to his request; we gave him a copy of the Rescript and an unofficial English translation of it; and we inspected and discussed it together as a group. With a sorrowful spirit, he understands and has accepted the Rescript and its dispositions.

I thank you for the expedient and careful service that the Congregation has offered to the Diocese of Winona in this matter and for its discreet and attentive solicitude over such tragic cases. Wishing you an abundance of divine blessing in your indispensable service to the Universal Church, and with the assurance of my prayers, I remain

Respectfully yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Bernard J. Harrington
Bishop of Winona

MONTHLY REPORT TO BISHOP

This self-reporting mechanism shall include:

- A regular Monthly Report completed by the priest at the request of the Bishop, submitted to the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator.
- Periodic meetings to be held by telephone conference with the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator for review of the submitted Monthly Report.
- Two meetings annually with the bishop or his delegate.

Name:

Thomas P Adamsom

Date of Report:

May 29, 2008

Ongoing Formation and Pastoral Care

- a. After-care Plan/Follow-up Plan or Personal Plan Write a brief summary of how you follow a daily plan for healthy living. If you are not following a plan, explain why? What are your plans to fulfill the incomplete components of your plan?

All starts with the basic spiritual activity which includes daily Eucharist, Divine Office, Rosary, and personal prayers and reflection.
Have good support people and friends.
Regular exercise. Regular diet.
Stay as busy and active as possible.

- b. Health and Medication Follow-up Describe how you attend to your general health through regular check-ups and daily exercise. Please list any medications currently prescribed.

Have regular check ups with local doctor and a biennial general physical at Mayo clinic which is this Monday, June 2nd.
Meds: Lisinophil, Metoprolol, Amlodipine, Lipitor and 81 mg aspirin.

- c. Spiritual Formation Describe how spiritual and pastoral living and formation are a part of your daily life.

Centers around Daily Eucharist and Divine Office augmented with personal prayers and devotions. Spiritual things remain at the center of my everyday life.

Do you have and make regular use of spiritual direction?

Yes - Visit with a local diocesan priest and make annual retreat with the Capuchin Priests at St. Anthony's in Marathon WI and some days of recollection there.

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Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator
55 West Sanborn Street ■ Winona, Minnesota 55987

JANUARY 2000

Other Areas

Do you have access to the internet? YES NO.
If yes, how often and for how much time?

Have you come across, or accessed yourself, any inappropriate or pornographic websites while using the internet? YES NO Please describe.

Are there any other areas in your life that pose problems for you? Please explain.

Always worried about the future - unresolved abuse charges; danger of renewed publicity; the usual concerns of aging.

Contact with Minors

1. Have you been in the company of minors without another adult present since the last report?
 YES NO
If so, please describe the circumstances of each instance.

2. Have you been in the presence of minors with another adult present? YES NO
If so, please explain the circumstances of each instance.

Only at family gatherings - grandchildren of my sisters were present on two occasions - No concerns whatsoever.

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d. Prayer Life Describe how you have kept the Eucharist the center of daily life.

Remains solid. the recent celebration of Corpus Christi was a good review of the basics. the emphasis on much of what I read was on the social aspects of Eucharist and the bonds which should be created - a good review.

Are you faithful daily to the Liturgy of the Hours? YES NO If not, why not?

Always

How do you include personal prayer/contemplation into daily life?

Yes - Prayer remains easy for me and is also enjoyable, effortless. I think I have good variety and the quantity is high.

Support Systems

Describe systems of support that you have in place and how you use them to continue to be healthy. Do you meet on a regular basis?

Support Groups -

mostly close priest ~~parents~~ friends and on a few occasions with larger priest gatherings. there is no formal or scheduled time but there is frequency.

Have a few lay friends I meet with for socialization and sports.

Counseling Services -

Family support is good.

Attend some al-anon meetings.

There are always programs, lectures in the area.

I think I am well-read on pertinent subjects.

Sponsor(s) -

No scheduled or formal sponsor -

Other -

More family gatherings recently.

More part time work lately -

Things in the wider community have been calm.

3

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL
Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator
55 West Sanborn Street • Winona, Minnesota 55987

Domicile (Residency)

Please list your current address and contact information below for verification purposes.

Note: If you relocate or change contact information, please notify the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator of the change immediately.

Street Address: 943 Vernon St #7

City, State, Zip Code: Winona WI 54720

Telephone: 715 835 0716

Cellular Phone: None

Email Address: None

For all mailings please use:
Box 3034
Fair Claire WI 54702

Do you have a Quasi-domicile (ie: cabin) where you spend time away overnight?

YES NO If so, how often do you spend time at this location?

Have you spent time away overnight from your primary domicile or quasi-domicile?

YES NO Please explain.

One night only - stayed with priest friends.

Additional Comments/Questions Generally speaking, how are things going for you?

It has been a rather calm month.
Ordination Anniversaries are a lonesome
time for me.
Healing from my fall in April has been
fine - I have some apprehension with my very
broad biennial general physical in a few days.

Please return in the enclosed self-addressed envelope within ten days of receipt.

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55 West Sanborn Street • Winona, Minnesota 55987

MONTHLY REPORT TO BISHOP

This self-reporting mechanism shall include:

- A regular Monthly Report completed by the priest at the request of the Bishop, submitted to the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator.
- Periodic meetings to be held by telephone conference with the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator for review of the submitted Monthly Report.
- Two meetings annually with the bishop or his delegate.

Name: Thomas P. Adamson

Date of Report: June 29, 2008

Ongoing Formation and Pastoral Care

- a. After-care Plan/Follow-up Plan or Personal Plan Write a brief summary of how you follow a daily plan for healthy living. If you are not following a plan, explain why? What are your plans to fulfill the incomplete components of your plan?

Daily life centers around the spiritual; begins with Eucharist. Divine Office is prayed at various times of the day. Lots of personal prayer highlighted by Rosary and visit to BSS. Exercise is regular and enjoyable. Have good circle of friends. Read a lot.

- b. Health and Medication Follow-up Describe how you attend to your general health through regular check-ups and daily exercise. Please list any medications currently prescribed.

Had biennial general physical at Mayo Clinic in early part of month - most results were positive and some very good. Still have some follow up because of scars from fall on April 13th. Current meds: Lisinopril, metoprolol, nitroglycerin, and SIMB aspirin - my doctor is switching my Lipitor to a cheaper better generic drug.

- c. Spiritual Formation Describe how spiritual and pastoral living and formation are a part of your daily life.

Begins early in the day and remains the best part of the day. I think always Eucharist will be the most important part of my life and the most sustaining. Do you have and make regular use of spiritual direction?

It is good/regular - Talk with a local Diocesan priest and have regular experiences with the Capuchins at St. Anthony's in Matatou WI.

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Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator
55 West Sanborn Street ▪ Winona, Minnesota 55987

Other Areas

Do you have access to the internet? YES NO.
If yes, how often and for how much time?

Have you come across, or accessed yourself, any inappropriate or pornographic websites while using the internet? YES NO Please describe.

Are there any other areas in your life that pose problems for you? Please explain.

All of the publicity regarding sexual abuse dazzles me, the clergy side of it is always highlighted, and sometimes personalized, whereas it is a worldwide horrendous issue.
I am still having some health issues following my Fall on April 3, 2008.

Contact with Minors

1. Have you been in the company of minors without another adult present since the last report?
 YES NO
If so, please describe the circumstances of each instance.

2. Have you been in the presence of minors with another adult present? YES NO
If so, please explain the circumstances of each instance.

Especially at my sister and brother in law's 50th wedding anniversary. There were children everywhere, mostly relatives and always friendly.

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d. Prayer Life Describe how you have kept the Eucharist the center of daily life.

It is such. I prepare for it and do follow-up reflection each day. I almost always make an additional visit to BSS daily.

Are you faithful daily to the Liturgy of the Hours? YES NO If not, why not?

Always.

How do you include personal prayer/contemplation into daily life?

The prayer is stronger than the contemplation. I spend a lot of time each day in personal prayer and I hope the quality is there.

Support Systems

Describe systems of support that you have in place and how you use them to continue to be healthy. Do you meet on a regular basis?

Support Groups -

Small circle of priest friends is the core. We meet frequently but somewhat sporadically. There are larger priest gatherings I share in on occasion. Regular family contacts.

Counseling Services -

Attend Al-anon. Read many pertinent materials. Attend various lectures and special programs. Some of my regular friends are counselors.

Sponsor(s) -

Nothing very formal.

Other -

stay busy - sports and sporting activities are a good outlet.

3

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL
Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator
55 West Sanborn Street • Winona, Minnesota 55987

Domicile (Residency)

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Street Address: 943 Vernon St. #7

City, State, Zip Code: Altoona WI 54720

Telephone: 715 835 0716

For all Mailings Please Use:

Cellular Phone: None

Box 3034

Eau Claire WI 54702

Email Address: None

Do you have a Quasi-domicile (ie: cabin) where you spend time away overnight?

YES

NO

If so, how often do you spend time at this location?

Have you spent time away overnight from your primary domicile or quasi-domicile?

YES

NO

Please explain.

3 Nights with Priest friends on a
Mini-Vacation

Additional Comments/Questions Generally speaking, how are things going for you?

Mostly it is one day at a time. The
summer seems a little draggy and dull
thus far.

Some times I have to look for the
positive things in my life - today's mass
As the scriptures of today's mass
emphasize, the main thing is not to forget God.

Please return in the enclosed self-addressed envelope within ten days of receipt.

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MONTHLY REPORT TO BISHOP

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- Two meetings annually with the bishop or his delegate.

Name: Thomas P Adamson

Date of Report: July 30, 2008

Ongoing Formation and Pastoral Care

- a. After-care Plan/Follow-up Plan or Personal Plan Write a brief summary of how you follow a daily plan for healthy living. If you are not following a plan, explain why? What are your plans to fulfill the incomplete components of your plan?

Begins with the spiritual fundamentals which include daily Eucharist, Divine Office, Rosary, Visit to Blessed Sacrament, Personal Prayers, Enjoy being physically active with a regular exercise program.

Retain regular contact with priests, Family & Friends

- b. Health and Medication Follow-up Describe how you attend to your general health through regular check-ups and daily exercise. Please list any medications currently prescribed. Had biennial physical exam at Mayo Clinic with two follow up visits. My overall health is good to excellent but I am annoyed by the smaller nuisance, aging things.

Current meds: Lisinopril, metoprolol, Amlodipine, 81 MG Aspirin and now Simvastatin (a generic switch from Lipitor)

- c. Spiritual Formation Describe how spiritual and pastoral living and formation are a part of your daily life. I keep trying to improve with my daily experience of Eucharist. I continually take inventory of my personal prayer and all spiritual activity.

Do you have and make regular use of spiritual direction?

Yes - Have a local diocesan priest I visit with and make annual retreat and have other experiences with the Capuchin priests at Marathon WI.

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Other Areas

Do you have access to the internet? YES NO.
If yes, how often and for how much time?

Have you come across, or accessed yourself, any inappropriate or pornographic websites while using the internet? YES NO Please describe.

Are there any other areas in your life that pose problems for you? Please explain.

Some health problems this summer, most significantly a sore Rotator Cuff -
Had to have extensive dental work the past month including 2 new crowns and one root canal.
The aging process - may be catching up with me a little.

Contact with Minors

1. Have you been in the company of minors without another adult present since the last report?
 YES NO
If so, please describe the circumstances of each instance.

2. Have you been in the presence of minors with another adult present? YES NO
If so, please explain the circumstances of each instance.

Only briefly at family gatherings with aunts and nephews -

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d. Prayer Life Describe how you have kept the Eucharist the center of daily life.

It is always there - every day - I prepare for it by reading the scriptures for each day and do some follow up reflection / thanksgiving -

Are you faithful daily to the Liturgy of the Hours? YES NO If not, why not?

Every day for 51 years and running!

How do you include personal prayer/contemplation into daily life?

Yes, I have a variety of personal prayers, some the old fashioned ones and some more unique. Each month I continue to memorize something new whether a psalm, poem, prayer card etc.

Support Systems

Describe systems of support that you have in place and how you use them to continue to be healthy. Do you meet on a regular basis?

Support Groups -

Mostly centers around small circle of priest friends - meet frequently.
Some sharing in larger priest gatherings.
Family support
Some lay friends for conversation, social, and sports

Counseling Services -

Attend some at-home -
Read considerable pertinent materials.
Attend some lectures and programs at the local University and local Monastery.

Sponsor(s) -

Nothing very formal

Other -

Staying busy -
Read a lot -
Avoid idleness -

3

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55 West Sanborn Street • Winona, Minnesota 55987

Domicile (Residency)

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Street Address: 943 Vernon ST # 7

City, State, Zip Code: Altoona WI 54008

Telephone: 715 835 0716

Cellular Phone: NO

Email Address: NO

For all mailings please use:
Box 3034
Eau Claire WI 54702

Do you have a Quasi-domicile (ie: cabin) where you spend time away overnight?

YES

NO

If so, how often do you spend time at this location?

Have you spent time away overnight from your primary domicile or quasi-domicile?

YES

NO

Please explain.

2 Nights with priest friends.

Additional Comments/Questions Generally speaking, how are things going for you?

Seems like Summer has been draggy.

A few minor injuries, e.g. Rotator cuff,
and a lot of dental work have taken

Some spark out of me -

I am awful lazy.

There are some hidden positives too.

Please return in the enclosed self-addressed envelope within ten days of receipt.

4

FROM THE DESK OF
Thomas P Adamson

July 2008

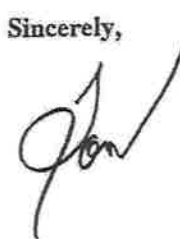
Dear P.J.,

Just to let you know that I completed and returned in mid-July the survey developed by John Jay College concerning the causes and context of sexual abuse.

The survey had some interesting facets but for the most part I thought many of the questions/comments were very generic.

I am glad there is finally being some consideration of what those who have abused may know and have to say in this whole arena.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom", with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

TA000395



July 31, 2008

Most Rev. Bernard J. Harrington
DIOCESE OF WINONA
PO Box 588
Winona, MN 55987

Re: Allegations by _____ against Fr. Thomas P. Adamson


Dear Bishop Harrington,


The Review Board for the Diocese of Winona met today in the Conference Room at St. John the Evangelist Church – Rochester, Minnesota. Our agenda included an overview of the penal process from representatives of the diocesan Tribunal, presentations regarding this case and evidence to consider an allegation of misconduct alleged by the victim,

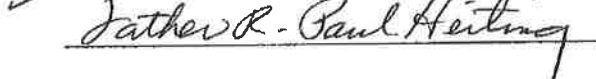
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Respectfully,


DIOCESAN REVIEW BOARD













CHANCELLOR



July 31, 2008

Most Rev. Bernard J. Harrington
DIOCESE OF WINONA
PO Box 588
Winona, MN 55987

Re: Allegations by _____ against Fr. Thomas P. Adamson


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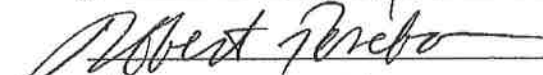
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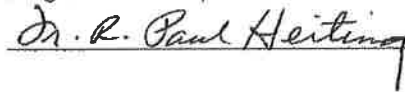
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DIOCESAN REVIEW BOARD

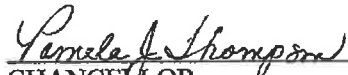












CHANCELLOR



July 31, 2008

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DIOCESE OF WINONA
PO Box 588
Winona, MN 55987

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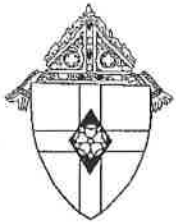
Respectfully,

DIOCESAN REVIEW BOARD

Dr. R. Paul Heiting

Kenneth C Reed
Nelle Moriarty

CHANCELLOR



July 31, 2008

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DIOCESE OF WINONA
PO Box 588
Winona, MN 55987

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Respectfully,

DIOCESAN REVIEW BOARD

Robert Plerbo
Dr. R. Paul Heiting

Kenneth C Reed
Nelle Moriarty

Pamela Thompson
CHANCELLOR

From: Heiting, Fr. Paul
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2008 1:03 PM
To: Harrington, Bishop Bernard; Harrington, Bp. Bernard; Daniel, William; Thompson, PJ
Subject: TA CASES

8-18-08

Bishop Harrington,

Based on our conversation this morning, here is my understanding of how you would like to proceed with the TA cases:

1. You plan on making no formal written response to the Review Board regarding the 4 cases they covered at their July 31st meeting, and the recommendations they made regarding presenting these cases to Rome.
2. You plan to call TA in to the Pastoral Center, with the intention of informing him that cases concerning him will be sent to Rome. You plan to offer him the opportunity to voluntarily ask for laicization. If he does so, the 4 cases involving him do not go to Rome.
3. If TA does not make the request mentioned in #2 above, he is entitled to an Advocate (a point I forgot to mention this morning). This Advocate basically apprises him of his rights. We have a man from the Diocese of Madison who is willing to function as TA's Advocate, if necessary.
4. Even with an Advocate, the TA cases can be prepared and sent to Rome. As you know, Larry Price is willing to be hired to prepare the Acts of the case and the full votum that you would be required to sign.

Everything in points 1-4 appear to be correct based on our earlier discussion this morning...no need to answer back.

Thank You -

Fr. Paul Heiting

MONTHLY REPORT TO BISHOP

This self-reporting mechanism shall include:

- A regular Monthly Report completed by the priest at the request of the Bishop, submitted to the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator.
- Periodic meetings to be held by telephone conference with the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator for review of the submitted Monthly Report.
- Two meetings annually with the bishop or his delegate.

Name: Thomas P. Adamson

Date of Report: August 30 2008

Ongoing Formation and Pastoral Care

- a. After-care Plan/Follow-up Plan or Personal Plan Write a brief summary of how you follow a daily plan for healthy living. If you are not following a plan, explain why? What are your plans to fulfill the incomplete components of your plan?

Begins with maintaining a solid spiritual life:
Daily Eucharist, Divine Office, Rosary, Scripture Reading, visits to Blessed Sacrament, Personal Prayers!
Have good daily exercise habits/routines,
Good circle of friends.
Stay busy as possible.

- b. Health and Medication Follow-up Describe how you attend to your general health through regular check-ups and daily exercise. Please list any medications currently prescribed.

Have local doctor who helps me sustain the basics. Have a biennial general physical at Mayo Clinic = results mostly positive
I do some exercise every day.
Medications: Lisinopril, Methoprolol, Amlodipine, simvastatin, 80 MG Aspirin daily.

- c. Spiritual Formation Describe how spiritual and pastoral living and formation are a part of your daily life.

The daily Eucharist is the foundation plus other prayer activities as listed in (a) throughout the day I pray and attend to spiritual needs.

Do you have and make regular use of spiritual direction?

Yes - Have a local diocesan priest I see regularly; make annual retreat & some other activities with Capuchin Priests at St. Anthony Retreat center in Matathon, WI.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL
Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator
55 West Sanborn Street ▪ Winona, Minnesota 55987

Other Areas

Do you have access to the internet? YES NO.
If yes, how often and for how much time?

Have you come across, or accessed yourself, any inappropriate or pornographic websites while using the internet? YES NO Please describe.

Are there any other areas in your life that pose problems for you? Please explain.

Some minor health problems connected with aging and other factors. At the same time I see several of my closest priest friends with serious health issues and that both pressures my condition and causes concern for them.

Contact with Minors

1. Have you been in the company of minors without another adult present since the last report?

YES NO

If so, please describe the circumstances of each instance.

2. Have you been in the presence of minors with another adult present? YES NO

If so, please explain the circumstances of each instance.

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Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator
55 West Sanborn Street • Winona, Minnesota 55987

d. Prayer Life Describe how you have kept the Eucharist the center of daily life.

It is without exception. I prepare for it each day and do follow up reflection and prayer. Even enjoy it all.

Are you faithful daily to the Liturgy of the Hours? YES NO If not, why not?

Always

How do you include personal prayer/contemplation into daily life?

Yes - I engage in a lot of personal prayer - Quite varied - contemplation happens more randomly.

Support Systems

Describe systems of support that you have in place and how you use them to continue to be healthy. Do you meet on a regular basis?

Support Groups -

Main core is a small circle of priest friends - we meet frequently but not on any predetermined schedule. Larger circle of priests are quite supportive. Family gives good support.

Counseling Services -

I attend Al-Anon - occasionally I go to lectures at the University and St Basil monastery. I read abundantly.

Sponsor(s) -

Nothing very formal -

Other -

Have some close lay friends who meet fairly regularly - mostly for sports and social. Part time work helps me be occupied.

3

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Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator
55 West Sanborn Street • Winona, Minnesota 55987

Domicile (Residency)

Please list your current address and contact information below for verification purposes.

Note: If you relocate or change contact information, please notify the Pastoral Care Assistance Coordinator of the change immediately.

Street Address: 943 Vernon ST # 7

City, State, Zip Code: Altoona WI 54720

Telephone: 715 835 0716

Cellular Phone: None

Email Address: None

For all mail please use:
Box 3034
Eau Claire WI 54602

Do you have a Quasi-domicile (ie: cabin) where you spend time away overnight?
 YES NO If so, how often do you spend time at this location?

Have you spent time away overnight from your primary domicile or quasi-domicile?
 YES NO Please explain.

One night with a priest friend at his residence.

Additional Comments/Questions Generally speaking, how are things going for you?

More positive than negative -
I am always apprehensive about the future and in fear that something will blow up.

Please return in the enclosed self-addressed envelope within ten days of receipt.

4

[unofficial translation]

**CONGREGATION
FOR THE DOCTRINE
OF THE FAITH**

Dispensation from the Obligations of Sacred Ordination

Prot. no. 835/2004

Winona

Thomas Paul ADAMSON, a presbyter of this diocese, has humbly requested a dispensation from all the obligations connected to sacred ordination.

After considering the report about the case prepared
by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

the Supreme Pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI

on March 2, 2009

assented to the requests of the above-mentioned priest
for the good of the Church, with the following instructions:

1. The rescript of dispensation must be communicated by the competent ordinary to the petitioner as soon as possible:

- a) It takes effect from the moment of notification;
- b) The rescript inseparably entails a dispensation from sacred celibacy and at the same time loss of the clerical state. The petitioner never has the right to separate these two elements, that is, to accept the first and to refuse the second;
- c) If the petitioner is a religious, though, the rescript also grants a dispensation from vows;
- d) In addition, it also entails an absolution from censures to the extent that this is necessary.

2. Notification of the dispensation can be made either personally by the ordinary himself or by his delegate, or by an ecclesiastical notary or by registered mail. The ordinary must return one copy duly signed by the petitioner to testify to the reception of the rescript of dispensation and at the same time the acceptance of what it prescribes.

3. Notice of the grant of the dispensation is to be noted in the baptismal register of the petitioner's parish of baptism.

4. Regarding the celebration of a canonical marriage, if the case warrants it, the norms which are established in the Code of Canon Law are to be applied. The ordinary is to take care, though, that steps are taken cautiously without public announcement.

5. The ecclesiastical authority who is responsible for duly communicating the rescript to the petitioner is to earnestly exhort him to participate in the life of the people of God in manner that corresponds with the new condition of his life, to be at the service of its edification, and so to show himself to be an upright son of the Church. At the same time, however, the authority is to inform him of the following:

- a) The dispensed priest, by that very fact, loses the rights, dignities, and ecclesiastical offices proper to the clerical state; he is no longer bound by the other obligations connected with the clerical state;
- b) He remains excluded from the exercise of the sacred ministry, with the exception of what is mentioned in canons 976 and 986, §2. Also, he cannot deliver a homily. He can neither hold a directive office in the pastoral sphere nor exercise the function of parochial administrator;
- c) Likewise, he cannot carry out a role in seminaries and in equivalent institutions. He cannot exercise a directive role in other institutions of higher study which are dependent upon the ecclesiastical authority in any way;
- d) But in other institutions of higher study which are not dependent upon the ecclesiastical authority, he cannot teach any theological discipline;
- e) Moreover, he cannot hold a directive role or teaching position in academic institutions of a lower level which are dependent upon the ecclesiastical authority. The dismissed and dispensed presbyter is bound by the same law with respect to teaching religion in institutes of the same kind which are not dependent upon the ecclesiastical authority.

6. To the extent that it is possible, the ordinary is to take care that the new condition of the dispensed presbyter not give scandal to the faithful. Nevertheless, if there is danger of abusing minors, the ordinary can publicize the fact of the dispensation and the canonical cause.

7. Moreover, at a suitable time, the competent ordinary is to make a brief report to the Congregation about the notification once it has been accomplished; and if there is ever any bewilderment of the faithful, he is to provide a prudent explanation.

Notwithstanding anything whatsoever to the contrary.

From the Offices of the Congregation on March 2, 2009.

William Cardinal LEVADA
Prefect

+ Luis Francisco LADARIA, S.J.
Titular Archbishop of Thibica
Secretary

Day of Notification _____

Signature of the Presbyter as a Sign of Acceptance | Signature of the Ordinary



CONGREGATIO
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,
Palazzo del S. Ufficio

March 25, 2009

PROT. N. 835/2004 - 29137

(In responsione fiat mentio iustus numeri)

Your Excellency,

On November 3, 2008 the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith received the documentation regarding the **Reverend Thomas Paul ADAMSON**, a priest of your Diocese, who has been accused of the sexual abuse of minors and has requested to be dispensed from the obligations of the priesthood.

This Congregation, after having carefully examined the documents of the present case and in light of the *votum* expressed by Your Excellency, decided to forward the petition to the Holy Father for his decision.

On March 2, 2009 the Supreme Pontiff granted Rev. Thamas Paul ADAMSON the grace of a dispensation from all the obligations arising from Holy Orders *pro bono Ecclesiae*. Attached you will find a copy of the relevant Decree.

Your Excellency is asked kindly to ensure that the priest is duly notified thereof, according to paragraph 2 of the Decree. A signed and notarised copy of the rescript, as well as notification of any other arrangements made, should be returned to this Dicastery at your earliest convenience.

With kind regards and prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Luis F. LADARIA, S.J.
Titular Archbishop of Thibica
Secretary

(Enclosures)

His Excellency
Most Reverend Bernard J. HARRINGTON
Bishop of Winona
55 West Sanborn St.
P.O.Box 588
Winona, MN 55987
U.S.A.

TA000007



CONGREGATIO
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

March 25, 2009

PROT. N. 835/2004 - 29137
(In responsione fiat mentio huius numeri)

Your Excellency,

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Titular Archbishop of Thibica
Secretary

(Enclosures)

His Excellency
Most Reverend Bernard J. HARRINGTON
Bishop of Winona
55 West Sanborn St.
P.O.Box 588
Winona, MN 55987
U.S.A.

TA000008



CONGREGATIO
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,
Palazzo del S. Ufficio

March 31, 2009

835/2004 - 29143

PROT. N. _____
(In responsione fiat mentio huius numeri)

Your Excellency,

On January 7, 2009 the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith received the documentation regarding the **Reverend Thomas Paul ADAMSON**, a priest of your Diocese, who was accused of the sexual abuse of minors and subsequently requested to be dispensed from the obligations of the priesthood.

While I am pleased to note that recent correspondence from this Dicastery has communicated the resolution of this matter on the part of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, you are requested kindly to make a contribution of US\$ 550 to support the work of this Dicastery. The cheque, or other financial instrument, is to be paid to the «Apostolic Tribunal - Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith».

With gratitude for your understanding and cooperation, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Joseph Augustine DI NOIA, O.P.
Under-Secretary

His Excellency
Most Reverend Bernard J. HARRINGTON
Bishop of Winona
55 West Sanborn St.
P.O.Box 588
Winona, MN 55987
U.S.A.

TA000018

COPY



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE

VERY REVEREND JOSEPH W. HIRSCH
OFFICE OF VOCATION DIRECTOR AND THE VICAR FOR CLERGY

April 2, 2009

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: Diocese of La Crosse -St. Mary's Parish, Altoona, Wisconsin

Dear Father Adamson:

It has been many twenty four years since we did the CPE course together in La Crosse at St. Francis Hospital. When the news about you became known I was greatly saddened and have kept you in my prayers many times since then. At present I am both Vocation Director for the Diocese of La Crosse as well as Vicar for Clergy. As Vicar for Clergy I deal with all issues regarding Safe Environment for the Diocese. Today it is with sadness that I must contact you about a concern we have received related to your presence at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Altoona, Wisconsin.

It was reported that you come on occasion to church to pray and that on Monday, March 30, 2009 you came to church without adult accompaniment and entered the sacristy. Given the notoriety of your situation since 1987, and the 2007 publicity of the same issues, and the fact that St. Mary Parish is connected with a grade school, it is a matter of great concern that this report was made.

As you will recall, Bishop John Paul, on April 2, 1987, wrote to you and admonished you about your presence in the Diocese of La Crosse. He stated, among other things, "While I have no control over your conduct in the Diocese of La Crosse, I admonish you to lead a completely inconspicuous life and to be above every possible reproach in your personal conduct ..." This latest concern raises the inevitable consequence of your seeking to address your spiritual needs in a Parish with a school and children near.

You should be aware that you should not be on Diocese of La Crosse property without the presence of another adult. You should never enter the sacristy or act in any public way which either does or is likely to create an impression of any official connection or status with the Diocese of La Crosse.

TA000011

It is not our desire to deny you access to the Sacraments. However, I would recommend you do so not in a Parish, especially a Parish with a school where children may be present and may not be supervised.

To that end, I have some ideas that may be helpful to you and would like to discuss them with you personally. For that purpose, I would ask you to give me a call as soon as possible so we can have that discussion. You can reach me at the Diocese of La Crosse at (608) 791-2667 and/or my cell phone number which is (608 343-0627).

In the meantime, for the sake of all, including your own interests, I request that you not come upon the property of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Altoona, Wisconsin, until and unless you and I have a conversation.

By our Diocesan Policy and Practice, I am sending a copy of this letter to the Bishop of the Diocese of Winona to keep him informed of this matter and of our contact with you.

I realize that this report now to you will be upsetting to you. However, I assure you our exclusive purpose in contacting you is to insure the safety and protection of all persons, including yourself.

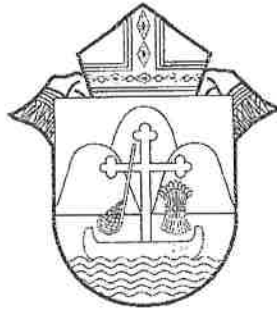
I look forward to hearing from you and to be able to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hirsch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Very Rev. Joseph W. Hirsch
Vicar for Clergy
Diocese of La Crosse

cc: Bishop of Diocese of Winona



DIOCESE of LA CROSSE

April 8, 2009

—+—
OFFICE OF THE
BISHOP
—+—

The Most Reverend Bernard J. Harrington
Diocese of Winona
55 West Sanborn Street
Winona, MN 55947

RE: Diocese of La Crosse - Father Thomas Adamson

Your Excellency:

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of a letter that our Vicar for Priests has delivered to Thomas Adamson regarding a concern expressed by persons who are members of a Parish in Altoona, Wisconsin. It is our understanding that Tom regularly comes upon the church premises on Sundays between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Mass and prays privately. It is our understanding that he is not accompanied by any other adult at the time.

Moreover, most recently he was seen entering the Sacristy.

The purpose of our contacting him is to discourage him from putting himself in harm's way by his presence at a Parish which, among other things, has an active elementary school. It is our desire to have Father Hirsch, Vicar for Priests, speak directly with Thomas Adamson about some alternative means of addressing his spiritual needs not in a Parish, and particularly a Parish with a school. Our interest in contacting Tom and speaking with him through Father Hirsch is to both explain personally to him what our concerns are regarding his presence there, the serious risk that his presence poses to him as well to the Diocese of La Crosse and to provide him some suggestions on measures he might take to meet his spiritual needs without exposing himself to additional publicity and scandal.

Of course, if you determine that any contact we have with him should not occur, we will respect your desires.

Obviously, if Tom contacts Father Hirsch, we will keep you informed as to any information and/or developments that occur subsequent to this letter and report.

If you have any questions about this matter, please call me.

Asking God's Blessing on you, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Jerome E. ListECKi*

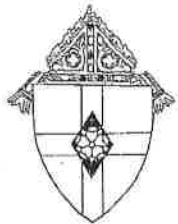
Most Rev. Jerome E. ListECKi
Bishop of La Crosse

3710 EAST AVENUE, S.
P.O. BOX 4004
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN
54602-4004

608.788.7700
FAX 608.788.4689

Enclosure

TA000010



Office of the Vice-Chancellor

DIOCESE OF WINONA
PASTORAL CENTER

April 22, 2009

Reverend Monsignor
Gerald A. Mahon
St. John the Evangelist Parish
11 4th Ave. SW
Rochester, MN 55902-3098

FILE COPY

Dear Msgr. Mahon:

Please make the following notation in the baptismal record of **Thomas Paul Adamson**, who was baptized in your parish around July 1933:

Dispensation from obligations of the clerical state granted by Pope Benedict XVI
(3/2/09); notification by Bishop Bernard Harrington (4/20/09).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

(Mr.) William L. Daniel, JCL
Vice-Chancellor



COPY

CONGREGATIO PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI
(Dispensatio ab oneribus sacrae Ordinationis)

Prot. N. 835/2004

Vinonaënsis

D.nus **Thomas Paul ADAMSON**, presbyter huius dioecesis, humiliter petit dispensationem ab omnibus oneribus sacrae Ordinationi conexis

Summus Pontifex Benedictus, Papa XVI

Die 2 m. Martii a. 2009

habita relatione de casu a Congregatione pro Doctrina Fidei precibus praedicti sacerdotis pro bono Ecclesiae annuit iuxta sequentes rationes:

1. Dispensationis Rescriptum a competenti Ordinario oratori quamprimum notificandum est:

- a) *Eius effectum sortitur a momento notificationis;*
- b) *Rescriptum amplectitur inseparabiliter dispensationem a sacro coelibatu et simul amissionem status clericalis. Nunquam oratori fas est duo illa elementa seiungere, seu prius accipere et alterum recusare;*
- c) *Si vero orator est religiosus, Rescriptum concedit etiam dispensationem a votis;*
- d) *Idemque insuper secumfert, quatenus opus sit, absolutionem a censuris.*

2. Notificatio dispensationis fieri potest vel personaliter ab ipso Ordinario eiusve delegato aut per ecclesiasticum actuarium vel per "epistulas praescriptas" (*raccomandata, certificada, enregistree, registered, einschreiben*). Ordinarius unum exemplar restituere debet rite ab oratore subsignatum ad fidem receptionis Rescripti dispensationis ac simul acceptationis eiusdem praeceptorum.

3. Notitia concessae dispensationis adnotetur in Libris baptizatorum paroeciae oratoris.

4. Quod attinet, si casus ferat, ad celebrationem canonici matrimonii, applicandae sunt normae quae in Codice Iuris Canonici statuuntur. Ordinarius vero curet ut res caute peragantur sine exteriori apparatu.

5. Auctoritas ecclesiastica, cui spectat Rescriptum oratori rite notificare, hunc enixe hortetur, ut vitam Populi Dei, ratione congruendi cum nova eius vivendi condicione, participet, aedificationem praestet et ita probum Ecclesiae filium se exhibeat. Simul autem eidem notum faciat ea quae sequuntur:

TA000013

- a) *Sacerdos dispensatus eo ipso amittit iura statui clericali propria, dignitates et officia ecclesiastica; ceteris obligationibus cum statu clericali conexis non amplius adstringitur;*
- b) *exclusus manet ab exercitio sacri ministerii, iis exceptis de quibus in can. 976 et 986, §2 ac propterea nequit homiliam habere, nec potest officium gerere directivum in ambitu pastorali neve munere administratoris paroecialis fungi;*
- c) *item nullum munus absolvere potest in Seminariis et in Institutis aequiparatis. In aliis Institutis studiorum gradus superioris, quae quocumque modo dependent ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo fungi nequit;*
- d) *in aliis vero Institutis studiorum gradus superioris ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica non dependentibus nullam theologiam disciplinam tradere potest;*
- e) *in Institutis autem studiorum gradus inferioris dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo vel officio docendi fungi nequit. Eadem lege tenetur presbyter dimissus ac dispensatus in tradenda Religione in Institutis eiusdem generis non dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica.*

6. Ordinarius curet, quantum fieri potest, ne nova condicio presbyteri dispensati fidelibus scandalum praebet. Attamen, si adest periculum minoribus abutendi, Ordinarius potest factum dispensationis necnon causam canonicam divulgare.

7. Tempore autem opportuno, Ordinarius competens breviter ad Congregationem de peracta notificatione referat, et si qua tandem fidelium admiratio adsit, prudenti explicatione provideat.

Contrariis quibuscumque minime obstantibus.

Ex Aedibus Congregationis, die 2 m. Martii a. 2009

William Card. Levada

Gulielmus Cardinalis LEVADA
Praefectus

+ *Ladaria*

✠ Aloisius Franciscus LADARIA, S.I.
Archiep. titularis Thibicensis
A Secretis

Dies notificationis APRIL 20, 2009

<p><i>Thomas O'Connell</i> Subsignatio Presbyteri in signum acceptionis</p>	<p>+ <i>Bernard J. Harrington</i> Subsignatio Ordinarii</p>
---	---

Donald A. Schmitz 04/20/09

TA000014



CONGREGATIO PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI
(Dispensatio ab oneribus sacrae Ordinationis)

FILE COPY

Prot. N. 835/2004

Vinonaënsis

D.nus Thomas Paul ADAMSON, presbyter huius dioecesis, humiliter petit dispensationem ab omnibus oneribus sacrae Ordinationi conexas

Summus Pontifex Benedictus, Papa XVI

Die 2 m. Martii a. 2009

habita relatione de casu a Congregatione pro Doctrina Fidei precibus praedicti sacerdotis pro bono Ecclesiae annuit iuxta sequentes rationes:

1. Dispensationis Rescriptum a competenti Ordinario oratori quamprimum notificandum est:

- a) *Eius effectum sortitur a momento notificationis;*
- b) *Rescriptum amplectitur inseparabiliter dispensationem a sacro coelibatu et simul emissionem status clericalis. Nunquam oratori fas est duo illa elementa seiungere, seu prius accipere et alterum recusare;*
- c) *Si vero orator est religiosus, Rescriptum concedit etiam dispensationem a votis;*
- d) *Idemque insuper secumfert, quatenus opus sit, absolutionem a censuris.*

2. Notificatio dispensationis fieri potest vel personaliter ab ipso Ordinario eiusve delegato aut per ecclesiasticum actuarium vel per "epistulas praescriptas" (*raccomandata, certificada, enregistrée, registered, einschreiben*). Ordinarius unum exemplar restituere debet rite ab oratore subsignatum ad fidem receptionis Rescripti dispensationis ac simul acceptationis eiusdem praepceptorum.

3. Notitia concessae dispensationis adnotetur in Libris baptizatorum paroeciae oratoris.

4. Quod attinet, si casus ferat, ad celebrationem canonici matrimonii, applicandae sunt normae quae in Codice Iuris Canonici statuuntur. Ordinarius vero curet ut res caute peragantur sine exteriori apparatu.

5. Auctoritas ecclesiastica, cui spectat Rescriptum oratori rite notificare, hunc enixe hortetur, ut vitam Populi Dei, ratione congruendi cum nova eius vivendi condicione, participet, aedificationem praestet et ita probum Ecclesiae filium se exhibeat. Simul autem eidem notum faciat ea quae sequuntur:

- a) *Sacerdos dispensatus eo ipso amittit iura statui clericali propria, dignitates et officia ecclesiastica; ceteris obligationibus cum statu clericali conexas non amplius adstringitur;*
- b) *exclusus manet ab exercitio sacri ministerii, iis exceptis de quibus in can. 976 et 986, §2 ac propterea nequit homiliam habere, nec potest officium gerere directivum in ambitu pastorali neve munere administratoris paroecialis fungi;*
- c) *item nullum munus absolvere potest in Seminariis et in Institutis aequiparatis. In aliis Institutis studiorum gradus superioris, quae quocumque modo dependent ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo fungi nequit;*
- d) *in aliis vero Institutis studiorum gradus superioris ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica non dependentibus nullam theologiam disciplinam tradere potest;*
- e) *in Institutis autem studiorum gradus inferioris dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo vel officio docendi fungi nequit. Eadem lege tenetur presbyter dimissus ac dispensatus in tradenda Religione in Institutis eiusdem generis non dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica.*

6. Ordinarius curet, quantum fieri potest, ne nova condicio presbyteri dispensati fidelibus scandalum praebat. Attamen, si adest periculum minoribus abutendi, Ordinarius potest factum dispensationis necnon causam canonicam divulgare.

7. Tempore autem opportuno, Ordinarius competens breviter ad Congregationem de peracta notificatione referat, et si qua tandem fidelium admiratio adsit, prudenti explicatione provideat.

Contrariis quibuscumque minime obstantibus.

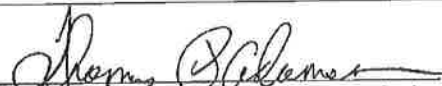
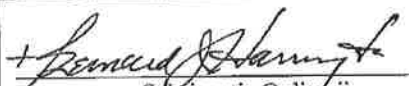
Ex Aedibus Congregationis, die 2 m. Martii a. 2009

William Card. Levada
 Gulielmus Cardinalis LEVADA
 Praefectus

+ *Aloisius Ladaria*

✠ Aloisius Franciscus LADARIA, S.I.
 Archiep. titularis Thibicensis
 A Secretis

Dies notificationis APRIL 20, 2009

 Subsignatio Presbyteri in signum acceptionis	 Subsignatio Ordinarii
---	---

Donald A. Schmitz 04/20/09

DIOCESE OF WINONA

No.082932

APOSTOLIC TRIBUNAL-CONGREGATION

04/20/2009

Obligation	Description	Invoice	Amount
77306	CONTRIBUTION-FOR WORK T. ADAMS *** Total ***		550.00 550.00

TA000023

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS A COLORED BACKGROUND AND MICRO PRINTED SIGNATURE LINES.

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 W. SANBORN ST., BOX 588
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

THE NORTHERN TRUST COMPANY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 0710
PAYABLE THROUGH NORTHERN TRUST BANK/DUPAGE
OAKBROOK TERRACE, ILLINOIS

70-2382
719

CHECK NO. No.

04/20/2009
DATE

*****550.00
AMOUNT

** Five Hundred Fifty Dollars and 00 Cents **

PAY
TO THE
ORDER
OF

APOSTOLIC TRIBUNAL-CONGREGATION
FOR THE DOCTRINE OF FAITH
3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. NW
Washington DC 20008

Dona H. Schmitz

MP

MP

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S)

FILE COPY

FILE COPY

April 21, 2009

The Most Reverend
Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio
Apostolic Nunciature of the United States of America
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008-3687

Your Excellency,

Enclosed is a letter and administrative payment that I would like to send to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Would you be so kind as to transmit it to that Dicastery's offices? I thank you for your continual assistance to the Church in the United States.

Wishing you an abundance of Paschal grace, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Bernard J. Harrington
Bishop of Winona



Office of the Vice-Chancellor

DIOCESE OF WINONA
PASTORAL CENTER

April 22, 2009

Reverend Monsignor
Gerald A. Mahon
St. John the Evangelist Parish
11 4th Ave. SW
Rochester, MN 55902-3098

FILE COPY

Dear Msgr. Mahon:

Please make the following notation in the baptismal record of **Thomas Paul Adamson**, who was baptized in your parish around July 1933:

Dispensation from obligations of the clerical state granted by Pope Benedict XVI
(3/2/09); notification by Bishop Bernard Harrington (4/20/09).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

(Mr.) William L. Daniel, JCL
Vice-Chancellor

February 10, 2012

HAND-DELIVERED

Dear Mr. Adamson:

After I learned that you recently moved to Rochester, Minnesota to live, I contacted you to meet with me and counsel for the Diocese of Winona today, February 10, 2012, to communicate to you our concerns and expectations.

As you know, the Diocese of Winona has received numerous allegations over the past several decades that you committed acts of sexual abuse against minors in and without the diocese. Many of those allegations are credible.

You are also aware that the Diocese of Winona has been sued many times by multiple plaintiffs alleging sexual abuse by you and that we continue to defend claims today involving the sexual abuse of minors by you.

Given your history, we, at the Diocese of Winona, view you as a potential threat to the safety of the children in our schools and in our parishes.

As a result, I have shared with you, and am writing in this letter to confirm, that from this day forward, you will not be welcome or permitted to enter onto the premises of any of the parishes or schools within the Diocese of Winona. Your presence on the premises of any diocesan parish or school hereinafter will be considered harassing and a trespass. If you do not abide by this request to refrain from entering on diocesan property, will be forced to file a restraining order against you. I certainly hope to avoid having to take that course of action.

Your anticipated cooperation regarding this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



The Reverend Richard Colletti
Vicar General
Diocese of Winona

TA000005

From: Martin, Peter
nt: Monday, March 5, 2012 4:06 PM
To: Cronin, Fr. Michael
Subject: RE: My House Men's Group

Was there anything more you wanted to know about it? (I'm assuming you were talking about the Men's Group... we're meeting weekly now.)

Pete

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael [mailto:michaeljpcronin@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 03, 2012 2:27 AM
To: Martin, Peter
Subject: Re: My House Men's Group

I didn't know anything about this.

Best regards,

Michael J. Cronin

On Mar 2, 2012, at 9:01 PM, "Martin, Peter" <PMartin@dow.org> wrote:

> Do you mean the Adamson article? Yes.
>
>
> Peter G. Martin, STL
> Director of the Office of Life
> Diocese of Winona<<http://dow.org/>>
> PO Box 588
> Winona, MN 55987-0588
> 507.858.1264 - pmartin@dow.org<<mailto:pmartin@dow.org>>
> _____
> From: Michael [michaeljpcronin@yahoo.com]
> Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 4:36 PM
> To: Martin, Peter
> Subject: Re: My House Men's Group
>
> Did you see Post Bulletin article today?
>
> Best regards,
>
> Michael J. Cronin

> On Mar 2, 2012, at 4:29 PM, "Martin, Peter" <PMartin@dow.org<<mailto:PMartin@dow.org>>> wrote:

>
> Fr. Cronin,
>
> I understand you were here asking about the 12-step program for men struggling with Pornography? I sent out the low message not too long ago... it probably has the information you are looking for. If not, feel free to e-mail me or call me. Have a great weekend!
>
> To the Pastors of the Winona and Rochester Deaneries,
>
> Back in August I sent many of you a request to insert the information below into your bulletins. For those of you that did, thank you! I received some response and a weekly meeting is now being held. I would ask that you consider leaving it in your bulletins for the next six months. We are all aware of how many men struggle with pornography and I feel that if we left the announcement in for an extended period of time, it would be very beneficial.
>
> The men's group is called My House (Choose this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15) and it provides a Catholic focus on prayer and recovery in every man's battle for sexual integrity. The world's view of sexuality has left many starving for truth, and our goal is to provide hope and encouragement for men who want freedom. We are not alone in this battle, and great progress can be made through standing together as men.
>
> I would ask that you please place the following announcement in your bulletins:
>
>
>
> •
> A CATHOLIC 12 STEP PROGRAM
> For Men Struggling with
> PORNOGRAPHY
> Call 507-858-1264
> e-mail: myhouse@dow.org<mailto:myhouse@dow.org>
>
>
>
> Please contact me if you have any questions! Thank you!
>
> Peter Martin
>
>
> Peter G. Martin, STL
> Director of the Office of Life
> Diocese of Winona<<http://www.dow.org/>> PO Box 588 Winona, MN
> 55987-0588
> 507.858.1264 - pmartin@dow.org<mailto:pmartin@dow.org>



CATHOLIC MUTUAL GROUP®

servicing the temporal needs of the church since 1889

June 3, 2013

Crum & Forster
Attn: Mr. Tim Kirk
305 Madison Ave
PO Box 1960
Morristown, NJ 07962

RE: Insured: Diocese of Winona, Winona, MN
Plaintiff: Doe 1
Date of Alleged Abuse: 1976-1977

Dear Mr. Kirk,

This letter is in regards to the above mentioned matter and will serve as initial notice of loss on behalf of the Diocese of Winona. Enclosed please find a copy of letters dated May 29, 2013 along with a summons and complaint dated and served of that same date.

Based upon the information in the complaint the alleged abuse occurred between 1976 and 1977, which was the period of time in which your company insured the Diocese of Winona. According to records reviewed applicable policies include, primary policies ML 14 52 45 in effect from July 1, 1973 to July 1, 1976 and ML 23 74 09 which was in effect July 1, 1977 to July 1, 1978. Umbrella policies include 520 004686 5 for period July 1, 1976 to July 1, 1977 and 520 277405 4 from July 1, 1977 to July 1, 1978.

Tom Braun of the Restovich Braun & Associates firm has accepted service on behalf of the Diocese of Winona and has requested an indefinite extension in which to interpose an answer. Attorney Thomas Braun can be reached at the Restovich Braun & Associates Law Firm at phone number 507-288-4840, with a mailing address of 117 East Center Street, Rochester, MN 55904.

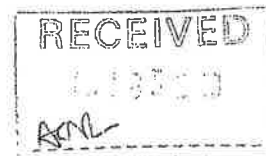
Thank you for your anticipated prompt attention and assistance in this matter.

Best Regards,

Ryan Christianson, AIC, ARM
Claims/Risk Manager II

cc: Bishop Quinn
Monsignor Colletti
Larry Dose
Tom Braun

amz



111 Riverfront, Suite 405
Winona, MN 55987-3456
(507) 454-6452
Facsimile (507) 454-8141

TA000216



CATHOLIC MUTUAL GROUP[®]

servicing the temporal needs of the church since 1889

June 13, 2013

Mr. Lawrence Dose
Diocese of Winona
55 W. Sanborn Street
P.O. Box 588
Winona, MN 55987

RE: John Doe I v. Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Diocese of Winona and Thomas Adamson

Dear Mr. Dose:

I am responding to the above mentioned complaint and the Diocese's tender of this matter to Catholic Mutual for coverage and defense.

The complaint alleges that Plaintiff John Doe I was sexually abused in 1976 and 1977 by Father Adamson. Furthermore, there is an alleged nuisance claim based on conduct occurring since 2004.

I regret to inform you that Catholic Mutual will not be able to assist the Diocese with coverage, defense or indemnification of this claim for the following reasons:

Catholic Mutual first provided coverage to the Diocese of Winona effective July 1, 2002. Therefore, there would be no coverage for acts that occurred in 1976 and 1977.

In regards to the nuisance claim since 2004, our Certificate's General Liability section, Coverage D, exclusion number 14 states, there is no coverage for:

"Bodily Injury, Property Damage, Personal Injury, Advertising Injury or any other type of claim or obligation even if such claim or obligation includes emotional pain or anguish sustained by, alleged or claimed by any person based upon, directly or indirectly arising out of, or in any way involving actual, alleged, attempted, proposed or threatened sexual molestation, abuse, assault and battery, harassment whether or not intentional, of any

10843 Old Mill Road
Omaha, NE 68154-2600
(402) 551-8765
(800) 228-6108
Facsimile (402) 551-2943

TA000215

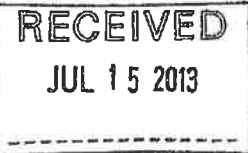
RIVERSTONE



A FAIRFAX Company

JOSEPH W. MAK
CASE MANAGER
8880 RIO SAN DIEGO DRIVE SUITE 200
SAN DIEGO, CA 92108
TELEPHONE: (619) 260-8907
FACSIMILE: (619) 688-0051
EMAIL: JOE_MAK@TRG.COM

July 12, 2013



CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Ryan Christianson, AIC, ARM
Claims Manager
Catholic Mutual Group
111 Riverfront, Suite 405
Winona, MN 55987-3456

Re: ***Doe 1 v. Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Diocese of Winona and Thomas Adamson***
County of Ramsey, 2d Judicial District, District Court, State of Minnesota, Case #
Filed 5/29/13
Insured: Diocese of Winona
US Fire Policies: ML 145245, effective 7/1/73 – 7/1/76
ML 237409, effective 7/1/77 – 7/1/78
520-004686 5, effective 7/1/76 – 7/1/77
520-277405 4, effective 7/1/77 – 7/1/78
Claim No.: CG 44556

Dear Mr. Christianson:

RiverStone Claims Management, LLC ("RiverStone") is administering the above-captioned claim on behalf of United States Fire Insurance Company ("US Fire"). Please direct your inquiries and correspondences to my attention.

This will serve as a follow up to your June 3, 2013 tender of defense of the above captioned case to Crum & Forster.

We are still searching for the policies that you identified in your June 3, 2013 letter. If you have a copy of the policies or the declaration page identifying the insured, policy number, policy periods, liability limits, and other relevant information, please send it to us for review.

Our investigation of this claim is under a reservation of rights. Our investigation is not an admission of liability or a waiver and estoppel of those rights and defenses available to us under the policy or at law. Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation in this matter.

guilty of a crime and may be subject to restitution, fines, voidance of insurance coverage or confinement in prison, or any combination thereof.
Thank you kindly for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,
RiverStone Claims Management, LLC



Joe Mak
Case Manager
Direct Dial: (619) 260-8907
Fax: (619) 688-0051
Email: Joe_Mak@trg.com

cc: Catholic Mutual Group
Attn: Ryan Christianson, AIC, ARM
111 Riverfront, Suite 405
Winona, MN 55987-3456

RIVERSTONE



A FAIRFAX Company

JOSEPH W. MAK
CASE MANAGER
8880 RIO SAN DIEGO DRIVE SUITE 200
SAN DIEGO, CA 92108
TELEPHONE: (619) 260-8907
FACSIMILE: (619) 688-0051
EMAIL: JOE_MAK@TRG.COM

August 26, 2013

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Diocese of Winona, Inc.
55 West Sanborn Street
Winona, MN 55987

Re: ***Doe 1 v. Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Diocese of Winona and Thomas Adamson***
Ramsey County, District Court, 2d Judicial District, Minnesota, Case # 62-CV-13-4075
Filed 5/29/13
Plaintiff:
Insured: Diocese of Winona
Affiliate: US Fire Insurance Co
Policy No: ML 236050, effective July 1, 1976 to July 1977
ML 237409, effective July 1, 1977 to July 1978
Claim No.: CG 44556

Dear Sir:

RiverStone Claims Management, LLC ("RiverStone") is administering the above-captioned claim on behalf of United States Fire Insurance Company ("US Fire"). Please direct your inquiries and correspondences to my attention.

DESCRIPTION OF CLAIMS

Your claims administrator, Catholic Mutual Group, had tendered the above captioned case to US Fire for defense on June 3, 2013. The plaintiff alleges that he was sexually abused by defendant Thomas Adamson ("Adamson") between while serving as an altar boy and participating in various youth activities at St. Thomas Aquinas parish in St. Paul, Minnesota. The plaintiff alleges that such abuse was committed by Adamson who was an ordained Roman Catholic priest employed at various times in the 1970s by both the Diocese and co-defendant, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis ("Archdiocese"), as a teacher, principal and parish priest. The plaintiff alleges that in 1974, the Diocese knew or should have known that Adamson had sexually abused and victimized over twenty children since 1964. When the abuses were discovered, the plaintiff alleges that the Diocese transferred Adamson to a new parish and took no further steps to investigate the misconduct or prevent further sexual abuse.

The causes of action are sexual battery against Adamson; negligence, negligent supervision, negligent retention, and nuisance against the Diocese and the Archdiocese. A motion to dismiss the nuisance cause of action is pending.

The plaintiff alleges he suffers from emotional distress, physical manifestation of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, humiliation, physical, personal and psychological injuries. He continues to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling, and will incur loss of income and or earning capacity.

There is no duty to defend or to indemnify Adamson under the policies for the claim of sexual battery, as the claim does not meet the definition of an "occurrence" as defined in the policy. In addition, there is no duty to defend or to indemnify Diocese arising from Adamson's abuse because the abuse was expected from the standpoint of the Diocese for purposes of determining whether there was an "occurrence" under the policy. The claim does not fall within the definition of an "occurrence" or meet the insuring agreement.

THE POLICIES

US Fire issued a commercial package policy to Diocese of Winona, Inc. under policy number ML 236050, with a policy period of July 1, 1976 to July 1, 1977. The limit of insurance for bodily injury claim is \$300,000 each occurrence and \$300,000 aggregate. The limit of insurance for property damage claim is \$100,000 each occurrence and \$100,000 aggregate. Prior to this policy period, US Fire appeared to have issued policy ML 76766 (July 1, 1970 to July 1, 1973) and ML 145245 (July 1, 1974 to July 1, 1976).

Policy ML 236050 was renewed under ML 237409 with a policy period of July 1, 1977 to July 1, 1978. The limit of insurance for bodily injury claim is \$500,000 each occurrence and \$500,000 aggregate. The limit of insurance for property damage claim is \$100,000 each occurrence and \$100,000 aggregate.

Umbrella policies

US Fire issued an umbrella policy, 520-004686 5 with a policy period of July 1, 1976 to July 1, 1977, and policy 520-277405 4 with a policy period of July 1, 1977 to July 1, 1978. Since the primary policies' limit of insurance and any underlying or other insurance have not been exhausted by payment of claims, there is no duty to defend or to indemnify Diocese under the umbrella policies.

Comprehensive General Liability Endorsement

At this time, we direct your attention to the primary policies' Comprehensive General Liability Endorsement wherein you will find the insuring agreement, definitions, exclusions and conditions:

Comprehensive General Liability Endorsement

I. Coverage – Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability

The Company will pay on behalf of the insured all sums which the insured shall become legally obligated to pay as damages because of bodily injury or property damage to which this insurance applies, caused by an occurrence, and the Company shall have the right and duty to defend any suit against the insured seeking damages on account of such bodily injury or property damage, even if any of the allegations of the suit are groundless, false or fraudulent, and may make such investigation and settlement of any claim or suit as it deems expedient, but the Company shall not be obligated to pay any claim or judgment or to defend any suit after the applicable limit of the Company's liability has been exhausted by payment of judgments or settlements.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF WINONA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case Type: Personal Injury

Doe 16,

Court File No.:

Plaintiff,

v.

SUMMONS

Diocese of Winona,

Defendant.

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED.

1. YOU ARE BEING SUED. The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiff's Complaint against you is attached to this Summons. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this Summons.

2. YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS. You must give or mail to the person who signed this Summons a **written response** called an Answer within 20 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this Summons located at Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A., 366 Jackson Street, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN 55101.

3. YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM. The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.

TA000579

4. **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS.** If you do not Answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

5. **LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, the Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. **Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.**

6. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means of resolving this dispute.

Dated: 8/27/13

JEFF ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES, P.A.



By: Jeffrey R. Anderson, #2057
Michael G. Finnegan, #033649X
Attorneys for Plaintiff
366 Jackson Street, Suite 100
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 227-9990

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WINONA

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case Type: Personal Injury

Doe 16,

Court File No.:

Plaintiff,

v.

COMPLAINT

Diocese of Winona,

Defendant.

Plaintiff, for his cause of action against Defendant, alleges that:

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Doe 16 is a resident of the State of Iowa and at all relevant times for this Complaint he resided in the State of Minnesota. The identity of Plaintiff Doe 16 has been disclosed under separate cover to Defendant.

2. At all times material, Defendant Diocese of Winona (hereinafter "Diocese") was and continues to be an organization or entity, which includes but is not limited to civil corporations, decision making entities, officials, and employees, authorized to conduct business and conducting business in the State of Minnesota with its principal place of business at 55 West Sandburn Street, Winona, Minnesota. The Bishop is the top official of the Diocese and is given authority over all matters within the Diocese as a result of his position. The Diocese functions as a business by engaging in numerous revenue producing activities and soliciting money from its members in exchange for its services. The Diocese has several programs which seek out the participation of children in the Diocese's activities. The Diocese, through its officials, has control over those activities involving children. The Diocese has the power to appoint,

supervise, monitor, and fire each person working with children within the Diocese.

FACTS

3. At all times material, Father Thomas Adamson (hereinafter "Adamson"), was a Roman Catholic priest employed by Defendant Diocese. At all times material, Adamson remained under the direct supervision, employ and control of Defendant. Defendant placed Adamson in positions where he had access to and worked with children as an integral part of his work.

4. From 1958 through December 1974, Father Adamson was employed by the Defendant Diocese at various times as a teacher and principal at Diocesan parochial schools and as a parish priest working with children at Diocesan churches across southern Minnesota. He worked at the following locations within the Diocese of Winona:

- a. Winona, MN: Cotter High School
- b. Winona, MN: St. Casimir's
- c. Adrian, MN: St. Adrian High School
- d. Adrian, MN: St. Adrian's
- e. Rochester, MN: Lourdes High School
- f. Caledonia, MN: St. John's
- g. Caledonia, MN: Superintendent of Catholic Schools
- h. Rochester, MN: Lourdes High School
- i. Hammond, MN: St. Clement's
- j. Albert Lea, MN: St. Theodore's
- k. Fountain, MN: St. Lawrence O'Toole
- l. Wycoff, MN: St. Killian's

m. Rochester, MN: St. Francis

5. Adamson also worked in St. Bonifacious: St. Boniface; St. Paul Park: St. Thomas Aquinas; Columbia Heights: Immaculate Conception; and Apple Valley: Risen Savior.

6. In approximately 1963, Officials of Defendant Winona Diocese learned or should have learned that Adamson had a homosexual problem with little boys.

7. In approximately 1964, Officials of Defendant Winona Diocese, particularly then-Bishop Edward Fitzgerald, learned or should have learned that Father Adamson sexually abused a boy or boys in Caledonia. They also learned or should have learned that Adamson attempted to molest one of these boys at least five times. Adamson admitted to the Vicar General of the Diocese that he had touched one of the youth. On discovery of this abuse, these Officials transferred Adamson to a new parish and took no further steps to investigate the misconduct or prevent further sexual abuse by Adamson.

8. The Diocese knew or should have known that Adamson was a child molester and knew or should have known that Adamson was a danger to children before Adamson molested Plaintiff.

9. The Diocese negligently or recklessly believed that Adamson was fit to work with children and/or that any previous problems he had were fixed and cured; that Adamson would not sexually molest children and that Adamson would not injure children; and/or that Adamson would not hurt children.

10. Defendant placed Adamson at St. John's in Caledonia, Minnesota. Adamson had unlimited access to children at St. John's. Children, including Plaintiff, and their families were not told what Defendant knew or should have known - that Adamson had sexually molested numerous children and that Adamson was a danger to them.

11. Plaintiff Doe 16 participated in youth activities at St. John's. He was raised in a devout Roman Catholic family, served as an altar boy, and participated in activities at St. John's. Plaintiff Doe 16, therefore, developed great admiration, trust, reverence and respect for the Roman Catholic Church, including Defendant and its agents.

12. By holding Adamson out as safe to work with children, and by undertaking the custody, supervision of, and/or care of the minor Plaintiff, Defendant entered into a fiduciary relationship with the minor Plaintiff. As a result of Plaintiff being a minor, and by Defendant undertaking the care and guidance of the then vulnerable minor Plaintiff, Defendant held a position of empowerment over Plaintiff.

13. Further, Defendant, by holding itself out as being able to provide a safe environment for children, solicited and/or accepted this position of empowerment. This empowerment prevented the then minor Plaintiff from effectively protecting himself and Defendant thus entered into a fiduciary relationship with Plaintiff.

14. Defendant had a special relationship with Plaintiff.

15. Defendant owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care because it had superior knowledge about the risk that Adamson posed to Plaintiff, the risk of abuse in general in its programs and/or the risks that its facilities posed to minor children.

16. Defendant owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care because it solicited youth and parents for participation in its youth programs; encouraged youth and parents to have the youth participate in its programs; undertook custody of minor children, including Plaintiff; promoted its facilities and programs as being safe for children; held its agents including Adamson out as safe to work with children; encouraged parents and children to spend time with its agents; and/or encouraged its agents, including Adamson, to spend time with, interact with, and recruit children.

17. Defendant had a duty to Plaintiff to protect him from harm because Defendant's actions created a foreseeable risk of harm to Plaintiff.

18. Defendant's breach of its duties include but are not limited to: failure to have sufficient policies and procedures to prevent child sex abuse, failure to properly implement the policies and procedures to prevent child sex abuse, failure to take reasonable measures to make sure that the policies and procedures to prevent child sex abuse were working, failure to adequately inform families and children of the risks of child sex abuse, failure to investigate risks of child molestation, failure to properly train the workers at institutions and programs within each Defendant's geographical confines, failure to have any outside agency test its safety procedures, failure to protect the children in their programs from child sex abuse, failure to adhere to the applicable standard of care for child safety, failure to investigate the amount and type of information necessary to represent the institutions, programs, and leaders and people as safe, failure to train its employees properly to identify signs of child molestation by fellow employees, failure by relying upon mental health professionals, and/or failure by relying on people who claimed that they could treat child molesters.

19. Defendant failed to use ordinary care in determining whether its facilities were safe and/or to determine whether it had sufficient information to represent its facilities as safe. Defendant's failures include but are not limited to: failure to have sufficient policies and procedures to prevent abuse at its facilities, failure to investigate risks at its facilities, failure to properly train the workers at its facilities, failure to have any outside agency test its safety procedures, failure to investigate the amount and type of information necessary to represent its facilities as safe, failure to train its employees properly to identify signs of child molestation by fellow employees, failure by relying upon mental health professionals, failure by relying upon

people who claimed that they could treat child molesters.

20. Defendant Diocese also breached its duties to Plaintiff by failing to warn him and his family of the risk that Adamson posed and the risks of child sexual abuse by clerics. It also failed to warn him about any of the knowledge that Defendant had about child sex abuse.

21. Defendant Diocese also breached its duties to Plaintiff by failing to report Adamson's abuse of children to the police and law enforcement.

22. Defendant Diocese knew or should have known that some of the leaders and people working at Catholic institutions within the Diocese were not safe.

23. The Diocese knew or should have known that it did not have sufficient information about whether or not its leaders and people working at Catholic institutions within the Diocese were safe.

24. The Diocese knew or should have known that there was a risk of child sex abuse for children participating in Catholic programs and activities within the Diocese.

25. The Diocese knew or should have known that it did not have sufficient information about whether or not there was a risk of child sex abuse for children participating in Catholic programs and activities within the Diocese.

26. The Diocese knew or should have known that it had numerous agents who had sexually molested children. It knew or should have known that child molesters have a high rate of recidivism. It knew or should have known that there was a specific danger of child sex abuse for children participating in their youth programs.

27. The Diocese held its leaders and agents out as people of high morals, as possessing immense power, teaching families and children to obey these leaders and agents, teaching families and children to respect and revere these leaders and agents, soliciting youth and

families to its programs, marketing to youth and families, recruiting youth and families, and holding out the people that worked in the programs as safe.

28. Defendant was negligent and/or made representations to Plaintiff and his family during each and every year of his minority.

29. In approximately 1963-1964, Adamson engaged in unpermitted sexual contact with Plaintiff Doe.

30. The Diocese failed to inform law enforcement authorities that Adamson had sexually abused minor children. As a direct result, Adamson avoided criminal investigation and prosecution and continued to abuse minor boys.

31. In 2004, Defendant Diocese publically admitted that there were 13 priests who worked in the Diocese who had been credibly accused of sexually molesting minors. The Diocese has not released those names to the public. As a result children are at risk of being sexually molested.

32. As a direct result of the Defendant's conduct described herein, Plaintiff has suffered, and will continue to suffer, great pain of mind and body, severe and permanent emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, humiliation, physical, personal and psychological injuries. Plaintiff was prevented, and will continue to be prevented, from performing his normal daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; has incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling; and, on information and belief, has and/or will incur loss of income and/or loss of earning capacity.

**COUNT I: DEFENDANT DIOCESE –
NUISANCE (COMMON LAW AND MINN. STAT. § 561.01)**

33. Plaintiff incorporates all consistent paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set

forth under this count.

34. Defendant continues to conspire and engage and/or has conspired and engaged in efforts to 1) conceal from the general public the sexual assaults committed by, the identities of, and the pedophilic/ephebophilic tendencies of, Adamson and Defendant's other agents on its list of credibly accused priests; 2) attack the credibility of the victims of Defendant's agents; and/or 3) protect Defendant's agents from criminal prosecution for their sexual assaults against children.

35. The negligence and/or deception and concealment by Defendant was and is injurious to the health and/or indecent or offensive to the senses and/or an obstruction to the free use of property by the general public, including but not limited to, residents in the Diocese of Winona and all other members of the general public who live in communities where Defendant's credibly accused molesters live. It was and is indecent and offensive to the senses, so as to interfere with the general public's comfortable enjoyment of life in that the general public cannot trust Defendant to warn parents of the presence of the current and/or former credibly accused molesters, nor to identify their current and/or former credibly accused molesters, nor to disclose said credibly accused molesters' assignment histories, nor to disclose their patterns of conduct in grooming and sexually assaulting children, all of which create an impairment of the safety of children in the neighborhoods in Minnesota and throughout the Midwest United States where Defendant conducted, and continues to conduct, its business.

36. The negligence and/or deception and concealment by Defendant was specially injurious to Plaintiff's health as he was repeatedly sexually assaulted by Defendant's agent, Adamson.

37. The negligence and/or deception and concealment by Defendant also was

specially injurious to Plaintiff's health in that when Plaintiff finally discovered the negligence and/or deception and concealment of Defendant, Plaintiff experienced mental and emotional distress that Plaintiff had been the victim of the Defendant's negligence and/or deception and concealment; that Plaintiff had not been able to help other minors being molested because of the negligence and/or deception and concealment; and that Plaintiff had not been able to because of the negligence and/or deception and concealment to receive timely medical treatment needed to deal with the problems Plaintiff had suffered and continues to suffer as a result of the molestations.

38. Plaintiff also suffered special, particular and peculiar harm after he learned of the Diocese's concealment of its list of priests credibly accused of sexually molesting minors, which continues as long as the list remains concealed. As a result of the concealment, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer lessened enjoyment of his life, impaired health, emotional distress, and/or physical symptoms of emotional distress. He has also experienced depression, anxiety, and anger.

39. The continuing public nuisance created by Defendant was, and continues to be, the proximate cause of the injuries and damages to the general public and of Plaintiff's special injuries and damages as alleged.

40. In doing the aforementioned acts, Defendant acted negligently and/or intentionally, maliciously and with conscious disregard for Plaintiff's rights.

41. As a result of the above-described conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

**COUNT II: DEFENDANT DIOCESE -
NEGLIGENCE**

42. Plaintiff incorporates all consistent paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set

forth under this count.

43. Defendant Diocese owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care.

44. Defendant Diocese breached the duty of reasonable care it owed Plaintiff.

45. Defendant's breach of its duty was the proximate cause of Plaintiff's injuries.

46. As a direct result of Defendant's negligent conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

**COUNT III: DEFENDANT DIOCESE –
NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION**

47. Plaintiff incorporates all consistent paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth under this count.

48. At all times material, Defendant Adamson was employed by Defendant Diocese and was under Defendant Diocese's direct supervision, employ and control when he committed the wrongful acts alleged herein. Defendant Adamson engaged in the wrongful conduct while acting in the course and scope of his employment with Defendant Diocese and/or accomplished the sexual abuse by virtue of his job-created authority. Defendant Diocese failed to exercise ordinary care in supervising Defendant Adamson in his parish assignment within the Diocese and failed to prevent the foreseeable misconduct of Defendant Adamson from causing harm to others, including the Plaintiff herein.

49. As a direct result of Defendant's negligent conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

**COUNT IV: DEFENDANT DIOCESE –
NEGLIGENT RETENTION**

50. Plaintiff incorporates all consistent paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth under this count.

51. Defendant, by and through its agents, servants and employees, became aware, or should have become aware, of problems indicating that Adamson was an unfit agent with dangerous and exploitive propensities, yet Defendant failed to take any further action to remedy the problem and failed to investigate or remove Adamson from working with children.

52. As a direct result of Defendant's negligent conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

53. Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant in an amount in excess of \$50,000.00, plus costs, disbursements, reasonable attorney's fees, interest, and such other and further relief as the court deems just and equitable.

54. Plaintiff requests an order requiring that the Diocese publically release the names of all credibly accused child molesting priests, each such priests history of abuse, each such priests pattern of grooming and sexual behavior, and his last known address.

Dated: 8/27/13

JEFF ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES, P.A.



By: Jeffrey R. Anderson, #2057
Michael G. Finnegan, #033649X
Attorneys for Plaintiff
366 Jackson Street, Suite 100
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 227-9990

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that sanctions, including costs, disbursements, and reasonable attorney fees may be awarded pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 549.211 to the party against whom the allegations in this pleading are asserted.



From: Nathan Hansen <Nathan.Hansen@winonadailynews.com>
Content: Thursday, August 29, 2013 10:36 AM
To: Hennessy, Joel
Subject: Suit Against Diocese

Hi Joel,

Jeff Anderson is announcing a suit his firm filed earlier this week at an event in Rochester later this afternoon. The suit is brought on behalf of Doe 16 and alleges the Diocese knowingly put the plaintiff in harm's way by allowing Father Thomas Adamson to work at St. John's School in Caledonia. It also calls for the release of information on "credibly accused child molesting priests." Could I talk to you or someone else from the Diocese for a comment? Thank you.

Nathan Hansen
Higher Education, agriculture and environment, business reporter
Winona Daily News
W: 507-453-3519
C: 507-313-2372

"May you live in interesting times" - Ancient Chinese Curse

From: Hennessy, Joel
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2013 11:23 AM
To: Vuorela, Matt (Steier Group)
Subject: RE: Pius X - update - 9.5.13

Yes, I believe I made you aware of the lawsuits against St. Pius X...these relate to a Boy Scout leader that is accused of molesting boys...since the statute of limitations was lifted, new suits were filed against the leader and they also named St. Pius X because the Boy Scout meetings were held at the church.

You are aware of the other lawsuits which involve one priest, former priest Adamson.

If I did not properly communicate the St. Pius X suits, I apologize.

God bless,
Joel

From: Matt Vuorela [mailto:MVuorela@steiergroup.com]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 11:12 AM
To: Hennessy, Joel
Subject: FW: Pius X - update - 9.5.13

Joel, I've been exchanging emails with Fr. Collins and Denise at St. Pius X. They are willing to put in some more work and make additional contacts. I was a little surprised by this email, received earlier this morning. Have there been additional lawsuits filed recently against the Diocese? Is Pius X directly involved with any sort of scandal or litigation? I want to make sure we have all the facts as we proceed both at Pius X and in the other parish waves.

Thanks, Joel! I know you're busy with the auditors this morning, so don't feel like this needs a rushed response.

From: Charlie Collins [mailto:frcollins@piusx.org]
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2013 10:59 AM
To: Matt Vuorela
Subject: RE: Pius X - update - 9.5.13

Hi Matt---Yes—I will make more contacts---I am very surprised at the poor response---I think this may have to do to the fact that our parish is currently being sued for incidents that occurred in the 1970's/1980's—and there are more suits against the diocese----- I will make every effort to get more commitments-----after all I am getting old so the funding of the priest's retirement should be a big priority with me! Best wishes, Fr Charlie Collins

From: Hennessy, Joel
nt: Friday, December 6, 2013 7:16 AM
To: Peterson, Fr. Steve
Subject: Re:

That's what I was afraid of. I'll get you the other 3 names (only 4 are alive) when I get to the office.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2013, at 7:12 AM, "Fr. Steve" <sjp4646@gmail.com> wrote:

I have not seen the list for our Diocese although the one for the Archdiocese was in the news yesterday. Tom Adamson is on that list and I believe he is receiving benefits from the DOW PPP. Please forward the list for our Diocese.

Fr. Steve

Fr. Steven J. Peterson

*St. Columbanus Catholic Church
114 East Main Street
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917*

sjp4646@gmail.com

*507-583-2529
507-273-4916 - cell
507-583-7738 - fax*

On Fri, Dec 6, 2013 at 6:50 AM, Hennessy, Joel <JHennessy@dow.org> wrote:

Fr. Peterson or Larry,

Do any of the priests on "the list" receive benefit from the Priests Pension Fund?? This is the first time this question has been asked, please advise.

Joel

From: Berning, Jim [mailto:jberning@wacs1.org]
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 10:40 PM
To: Hennessy, Joel; Vuorela, Matt (Steier Group)
Subject:

If you can help me answer these questions, it would be most appreciated. Thanks, Fr. Jim Berning

I received a call from Sheila about the Roots in Faith campaign. She answered most of my questions, but I do have another one. Does the money raised through this campaign, go to help retired priests, even those accused of sexual abuse? I know it doesn't go to help settle suits, but will those accused receive it too? Will this money be invested in a safe fund so that it will keep growing, or will parishioners be expected to keep contributing to this forever?

There are some priests, I'm sorry to say and admit, that I do NOT want to help in their retirement. I know that is not very Christian, and I should turn the other cheek, but these men did not walk the walk of Jesus. Why can't all priests be open and welcoming like you? Why do some act like a Christian in church or public, but not when others are looking? It has been an extremely stressful year, and right now the thought of helping to support retired priests is upsetting.

Thank you for the support you give your parishioners. Your words every week are very uplifting and thought provoking.

I look forward to your responses to my questions.

Have a good Friday,

--

Father Jim Berning

Pastor

St. Mary's Parish

1303 West Broadway

Winona, MN 55987

Website: www.stmaryswinona.org

email: jberning@wacs1.org

WACS Mission Statement

The Winona Area Catholic Schools, representing the Catholic parishes, join with parents in their responsibility as foremost educators of their children. Integrating knowledge, service and the Catholic faith, we prepare students to live a life of Christian witness in a constantly changing world.

From: Hennessy, Joel
Int: Friday, December 6, 2013 7:17 AM
To: Peterson, Fr. Steve
Subject: Re:

Good morning, by the way! This is the day of the Lord has made! I will rejoice and be glad in it!

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2013, at 7:12 AM, "Fr. Steve" <sjp4646@gmail.com> wrote:

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Father Jim Berning

Pastor

St. Mary's Parish

1303 West Broadway

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Website: www.stmaryswinona.org

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