

Family's suit ties priest to suicide victim

DEC 8 1992

JOLIET — The family of a suicide victim from Hinsdale is suing the Rev. Myles Patrick White of Kankakee because they say he molested the victim about 20 years ago.

White has been accused of molesting a teen-age boy in Illinois and Indiana. The boy is now 17 and lives in Manteno.

White was indicted in Kankakee County in August for child pornography, criminal sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

Joseph Klest, an attorney from Bloomingdale, said the Hinsdale man committed suicide Dec. 10, 1990, in Hinsdale at the age of 34.

The lawsuit, filed in Will County Circuit Court, alleges that White sexually abused the man when he was a teen-ager. The victim attended school at St. Isaac Jogues Parish in Hinsdale, where White was assigned.

White later worked in Lombard, Glen Ellyn, Naperville, Manhattan, Monee and at St. Martin of Tours Parish Kankakee.

Klest said that "a suit was filed today on behalf of the family of a man who committed suicide. The family believes that the suicide is related to the fact that the deceased was sexually abused by Rev. Myles Patrick White, a Roman Catholic priest, while he was assigned to St. Isaac Jogues Parish in Hinsdale, Ill."

There is a two-year limit on wrongful death cases but that has been expanded for sexual abuse, Klest said. So far, people have filed suit up to age 30 for abuse they suffered as children. Klest admitted this will be the first time a lawsuit involving a 34-year-old will be tested.

Church officials claim that they had no knowledge of White's sexual misconduct, Klest said, even though it is believed White has been sexually abusing teen-age boys for at least 20 years. Klest is seeking information regarding other acts of misconduct by the White. Klest can be reached at (708) 529-7848."

THE DAILY JOURNAL

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