

Suit filed against Kankakee priest

By Pat Morrison

JOLIET—A former Hinsdale couple filed suit last week against a Kankakee priest, claiming that he sexually abused their son, now deceased, more than 20 years ago and that the abuse led to the man's suicide in 1990.

Father Myles White was accused in July of molesting a male minor. Charges were filed against him in Marshall County, Ind., and in Kankakee after the alleged incident, and the case is still pending.

In keeping with diocesan policy, Fr. White was immediately removed from his post as pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Kankakee when the charges were made known.

IN THE LAWSUIT, filed in Will County Circuit Court Dec. 11, the former parishioners of St. Isaac Jogues Parish in Hinsdale charge that Fr. White also sexually abused their son, then a teenager, in the late 1960s to early '70s when he was assigned to the parish.

The man allegedly told his family about the abuse in 1989, and his father confronted the priest, who reportedly denied any improprieties.

According to the couple's lawyer, Joseph G. Klest, the parents believed the priest at the time because he was well-known to the family.

Their son committed suicide in 1990, reportedly because of anguish over the earlier molestation.

The couple is seeking \$5 million in damages from Fr. White, the Joliet Diocese and several church officials.