

Father White faces civil charges

Rev. Myles P. White, awaiting sentencing on criminal child molesting charges in Marshall County, faces at least one, and possibly more, civil lawsuits in Illinois.

The family of an Illinois resident who committed suicide in 1990 has recently filed a Will County lawsuit against the priest, alleging, among other things, wrongful death.

Joseph G. Klest, the lawyer representing the family of the alleged victim, told the LIFE that this is one of three civil lawsuits that he expects to file against White in the near future.

One of the other lawsuits involves the young male victim identified in the Marshall County child molesting case which is expected to be settled April 2 when the priest is sentenced in Superior Court 1.

Under terms of his plea agreement in Marshall County he pleaded guilty to a Class C count of child molesting a teen boy. A Class D count of child molesting was dropped in exchange for the guilty plea.

He already faces similar child molesting and pornography charges in Kankakee, Ill.

White of Kankakee, Ill., and Culver, has been the subject of extensive police investigations in both Indiana and Illinois since his arrest last summer in Culver.

The already-filed Will County civil action alleges that White used his power and authority as a priest

in engaging in sexual activity with the deceased while he was a boy.

Sexual activity between this boy and White allegedly took place during the years of 1967 to 1972 while the priest was pastor of St. Isaac Joques Church in Hinsdale, Ill., and the boy was a member of the same parish.

During those years the boy was age 13 to 18.

The alleged sexual activity took place on church property, according to the Will County charges.

The suits alleges that the boy later suffered psychological damage to such an extent that he was unable to work or even practice his religion.

Also named in the civil suit are the Diocese of Joliet, the Roman Catholic Church, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Roman pontiff.

The legal action alleges that the Catholic Church should have known of "the dangerous and exploitative propensities" of the priest.

The suit is seeking \$15,000 compensatory plus additional unspecified amounts in the lawsuit.

Last summer White was charged for the first time with child molesting.

These charges resulted when a pornographic video allegedly showing White and a young man engaged in sexual activity was discovered in Culver.

The video turned up at a Culver Lions Club flea market and was

turned over to Curt Palmer, Marshall County deputy prosecutor.

White was arrested July 28 in Culver while the youth who allegedly appeared in the videotape was on the property.

White had a summer home at 430 Harding Court in Culver.

In Kankakee he was arrested Aug. 21. There he faces five criminal sexual charges: one count of child pornography (Class 1 felony), three counts of criminal sexual assault (Class 1), and one count of aggravated criminal sexual abuse (Class 2 felony).

White is free on \$10,000 bond in Kankakee County and a \$10,000 cash bond in Marshall County.

At the time of his arrest White was pastor of St. Martin de Tours Church in Kankakee. He was also in charge of the church elementary school there.

Presently he is suspended from the posts by the Diocese of Joliet.

Although the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been called in to investigate whether any federal laws had been violated, the office of the U.S. district attorney declined to file any charges.

White faces an April 12 bench trial in Kankakee on the criminal charges resulting from the videotape found in Culver.

Judge Eugene N. Chipman will sentence White in his Marshall County plea agreement on April 3.