

Molestation charges leveled against priest stationed here

JAN 3 1993

By Leanne Duby, Journal writer

Area residents usually read about priests in Chicago accused of molesting children, but accusations hit home with the arrest of the Rev. Myles White in July.

White, 51, former priest of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, was arrested July 28 in Marshall County, Indiana, after a pornographic videotape was discovered of White and a Manteno boy. White had a summer home in Culver, where the arrest was made.

The alleged crime was discovered in a quite unusual way. Assistant Marshall County Prosecutor Curt Palmer said a friend of his had purchased a tape of a Culver festival parade at a flea market.

At the end of the tape, the friend discovered footage of White and the boy, who is now 17. The tape was made in 1990 at the rectory in Kankakee, police said.

Palmer's friend gave Palmer the tape, and he turned it over to Marshall County Sheriff's Police.

The youth frequently visited the summer home with White. The incidents were believed to have occurred from 1988 to 1991 at the home and in Kankakee.

As Marshall County police went to the summer home to arrest him, police said White was inside cutting up and burning Polaroid photographs of other young, nude

males.

When Kankakee and Marshall County police searched the rectory, pornographic magazines and videos were found.

Once charges were filed in Indiana, the Joliet Diocese removed White from his job.

By Aug. 7, the FBI joined the investigation. Child exploitation is a national priority for the FBI. They began investigating whether pornographic materials, such as photos and videotape, crossed state lines.

On Aug. 21, White was indicted by a Kankakee County Grand Jury for child pornography, criminal sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual abuse. He is charged with two counts of molestation in Indiana.

White appeared in court Dec. 2, and the case was continued until Jan. 13 to set a trial date. Officials said the continuation would allow discussion to go forward on the possibility of combining all the cases.

The former priest also faces a civil lawsuit.

The family of a suicide victim from Hinsdale says White molested the victim about 20 years ago.

The 34-year-old man committed suicide Dec. 10, 1990.

The suit was filed in Will County Circuit Court. It alleges White sexually abused the man when he was a teenager and attended school at St. Isaac Jogues Parish in Hinsdale, where White was assigned.

Prior to his stint at St. Martin's he had worked in Lombard, Glen Ellyn, Naperville, Manhattan and Monee.

The family's attorney said the family believes that the suicide is related to the fact he was abused.

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