

Myles White given 5 years in sex case

By Leanne Duby
Journal writer

JAN 8 1993

A former St. Martin of Tours priest has pleaded guilty to sexual molestation charges in Indiana and has agreed to spend five years in prison.

Myles White, 51, pleaded guilty to a charge that he engaged in oral sex with a Manteno boy, now 17, at his summer home in Culver, Ind.

As part of the plea agreement, the lesser charge that he fondled the boy was dropped.

White agreed to a five-year prison term, a \$1 fine and one year probation.

Curt Palmer, assistant Marshall County, Indiana prosecutor, said one year of the prison sentence will be suspended so that he may receive counseling. More than likely, he will receive that

counseling at St. Luke's in Maryland, which provides counseling to priests.

Palmer said it will be up to the courts in Illinois to determine if the Indiana prison term will run concurrently or consecutively to any prison term he may receive in Illinois if he pleads or is found guilty.

He faces charges here of child pornography, criminal sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual abuse. White will appear in court at 9:30 a.m. Thursday in front of Judge John Michela to set a trial date.

In Indiana, Judge Eugene Chipman will rule on the agreement March 5.

Palmer said he had suggested the plea agreement since the onset of the case. However, he said he would not agree to the plea until White

See PRIEST, page 2

identified the young boys in photographs that were found at the summer home in Culver and at the rectory in Kankakee.

The prosecutor said between eight and 15 different boys were identified, but the alleged incidents occurred beyond the three year statute of limitations.

"From the outset of this case, I didn't think he would want to go to trial because the videotape is so conclusive," Palmer said. "He received a bit more than the standard sentence for a first-time offender. But given his position and that it appears it was ongoing for a long time, the sentence was appropriate."

The FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office in South Bend had investigated the incidents but declined to file any charges and declined any comment.

The Indiana charges were filed against White after a videotape of him and the boy having sex was discovered on the end of a festival parade tape purchased at a flea market.

Authorities later discovered the footage was made at the rectory in Kankakee. The incidents were believed to have occurred from 1988 to 1991 at both the summer home and in Kankakee.

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

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