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## Priest admitted molesting boys, ex-boss says

**Retired Denver cleric was simply moved from N.M. parish to Texas, former supervisor says**

**By Katie Kerwin**

*Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer*

Retired Denver priest David Holley admitted molesting boys in his New Mexico parish in the 1970s but was simply transferred to another parish, Holley's former supervisor said Wednesday.

"He said he was very sorry. I told him, 'I'm going to report

you,'" the Rev. Wilfrid Diamond told the *Rocky Mountain News* in a telephone interview from his home in La Luz, N.M. "He was OK about it. I guess he was kind of used to it, being moved from place to place.

"It used to be you just moved them from one place to another because you couldn't do much about it," Diamond said.

Diamond said a family told him in the mid-1970s that Holley, now 65, had molested their son. He then reported the abuse to the superior at the Servants of the Paraclete, a treatment center in New Mexico for troubled priests.

Holley had been sent to Diamond's parish, St. Jude Mission in Alamogordo, N.M., from Paraclete.

Joe Hafermann, 28, of Minneapolis and Mark Sanchez, 35, of Albuquerque Wednesday sued Holley and the Catholic Church, saying the church had failed to protect them from Holley's abuse at St. Jude in 1973 and 1974.

An attorney for the two men said additional victims have come forward in the wake of publicity about Holley this week.

Diamond, 79 and retired, said he was never told why Holley's home diocese in Worcester,

Mass., had sent him to Paraclete.

"They didn't notify me when he came. When he comes from (Paraclete) you know he has (a) problem. It's none of your business. It was confidential. Psychiatrists keep secrets," said Diamond.

After the family's report, Diamond confronted Holley, who admitted molesting the boy, he said.

Diamond notified the Paraclete treatment center but never told police or the supervising bishop in El Paso, Texas. Holley was then transferred to McCamey, Texas.

Hafermann said he was angry when he heard Diamond knew of

the abuse and didn't do more than report him.

"To hear Father Diamond actually knew about this is pretty disturbing," said Hafermann. He said the church should have kept Holley away from children.

"What they did is like sending an alcoholic out to another bar."

Holley, who worked as a chaplain at St. Anthony Hospital and is now retired in Denver, said he was worried about the charges, but would not discuss them.

Clerics at the the Worcester diocese refused to discuss the case.