

Bishop sets up abuse hotlines

By Kathleen A. Shaw
Staff Reporter

WORCESTER — Bishop Timothy J. Harrington responded yesterday to allegations of sexual abuse by a diocesan priest in the 1960s and 1970s by setting up special hotlines to take calls from people who say they were abused by former priest David A. Holley or other priests.

The hotline is an interim measure until he can appoint a permanent committee to "assist in the resolution of these serious matters."

Telephone calls will be taken during the day at these numbers:

Harrington, 751-6710; Auxiliary Bishop George E. Rueger, 751-6712; Monsignor Lawrence Deery, who heads the diocesan tribunal, 751-6715; Sister Paula Kelleher, vicar for religious, 751-6752; the Rev. Rocco Piccolomini, 798-5697; Monsignor Edmond Tinsley, 791-6724.

Calls at night or on weekends can be directed to Tinsley at his residence at Nazareth Home for Boys, Leicester, at 892-4886.

All telephone numbers are in the 508 area.

The Albuquerque, N.M., archdiocese earlier this week set up

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a hotline to take calls from people who may have been abused by priests, including Holley. The Springfield Diocese also recently set up a hotline to deal with allegations of sexual abuse by clergy in that area.

"We want to respond to people who may wish to speak with reference to what may have taken place in our diocese when Father David Holley was in active ministry here from July 1962 to August 1969," Harrington said. Holley, now 72 and retired, lives in Denver.

Holley was ordained here in 1958 and later served at St. Philip's Church, Grafton; St. Denis, East Douglas; St. Mary of the Hills, Boylston, and Our Lady of Fatima, Worcester.

"I am concerned deeply for anyone who may have been hurt by sexual abuse," Harrington said. "I want to make myself and other diocesan officials available to anyone in the diocese who may have

been victimized by sexual abuse."

A lawyer in New Mexico last week filed suit against the Worcester Diocese on behalf of two people who allegedly were molested by Holley while they were under treatment in Albuquerque. The local diocese was named in the civil action because lawyer Bruce E. Pasternack of Albuquerque charges the diocese was negligent for allowing Holley to be assigned to parishes in New Mexico, knowing the priest had been sent to New Mexico for treatment of sexual attraction to children, which is called pedophilia.

Pasternack said Holley was sent by the Worcester Diocese in 1971 to a center run by the Order of the Paraclete. During this time, Holley was allowed to serve as a fill-in priest at nearby churches, the lawyer said, which was when the alleged sexual abuse occurred. Holley was ordered into treatment by Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan, then head of the diocese. Flanagan said he will not comment because of the pending litigation.