

# Local News

## Charges 'under advisement'

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Staff Reporters

**WORCESTER** — A former Boylston resident who alleges he was sexually assaulted in 1967 by the Rev. David A. Holley gave a statement yesterday to police, according to District Attorney John J. Conte.

Conte said the question of whether a criminal charge would be brought against the priest was "under advisement." William L. Schultz of Natick said Wednesday he was seeking charges against Holley, alleging the priest made sexual advances to him in the 1960s when Holley was serving as assistant pastor of St. Mary of the Hills Church in Boylston.

### ALLEGATIONS MADE

Schultz met yesterday with a state police officer assigned to Conte's Crime Prevention and Control unit, according to the district attorney. Conte said Schultz made allegations concerning an incident that he said occurred in 1967. Conte declined further comment.

Bishop Timothy J. Harrington, who recently set up hotlines so that people could call with information about Holley or other priests, said yesterday he is not commenting publicly at this time because of the lawsuit filed in New Mexico that

## Priest accused of sexual abuse

names the Worcester Diocese as a defendant.

Schultz said on Wednesday he intends to press for full disclosure of diocesan files on Holley, who served in the Worcester area from 1962 to 1972, and wants the church to adopt a national policy for dealing with priests who abuse young people.

### REQUEST TO POPE

He is sending his requests in a letter to Pope John Paul II.

"I have a right to know where he is the rest of his life," Schultz said. He also wants a national registry of priests so parents and young people can find out if a priest has a record of sexual misconduct.

The church nationally appears to have adopted a strategy of moving priests accused of misconduct from parish to parish or to their own retreats or treatment centers, Schultz said. "The bishops need to revoke the right of these priests to say Mass and administer the sacraments and not just keep moving them around," he said.

The National Council of Catholic Bishops adopted a non-binding policy recommending that church offi-

cial should follow reporting obligations of civil law, provide pastoral care to victims and get offenders into treatment. Bishops are being told to act even with a "hint" of sexual misconduct.

### RESISTED ADVANCES

Paul T. Roughan of Worcester, who said he resisted advances by Holley while growing up in the same parish, said the church must confront the issue of requiring priestly celibacy and the time is right to allow priests to marry and have families. He said optional celibacy would attract men to the priesthood who are family oriented and not inclined to seek out children and teen-agers for sexual gratification.

Roughan said he knows of numerous other men who were subject to sexual advances by Holley during the 1960s and he has publicly asked them to come forward. He said he has not decided whether to seek charges against Holley.

### ORDAINED HERE

Holley was ordained here in 1958. He served at St. Mary's, St. Philip's Church in Grafton, St. Denis Church in East Douglas and

Our Lady of Fatima Church in Worcester, moving about every two years. He was ordered by then Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan to go to New Mexico for treatment by a religious order called Servants of the Paraclete, which also treated the Rev. James R. Porter, who is accused of molesting numerous youngsters in the Fall River area.

### FILL-IN PRIEST

The New Mexico lawsuit, filed by Albuquerque lawyer Bruce Paster-nack, says Holley continued to molest young men while he was serving as a fill-in priest in that state and in Texas. Holley later served as a hospital chaplain. He is retired and was last known to be living in Denver.

One question in the Schultz case may be whether prosecution would be barred by the statute of limitations. The statute varies depending on the offense alleged and may not become a factor if it can be shown that a suspect left the jurisdiction to avoid prosecution.

### ANOTHER ISSUE

Another issue may be the statute under which a charge, if one is to be filed, would be lodged. Some sexual assault charges now on the books did not exist in 1967. Others that did have since been affected by appellate court decisions.

TELEGRAM & GAZETTE