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Alleged sex abuse victims of priest retain lawyer

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Boston lawyer Roderick MacLeish said yesterday he is representing three people who have alleged they were sexually abused by the Rev. David J. Holley.

MacLeish would not give the names of his clients or discuss the exact nature of the alleged sexual abuse. He said other people have called his office regarding Holley, who formerly served in the Worcester diocese, but have not left their names.

PREMATURE TO DISCUSS

MacLeish said it is premature to discuss whether he will bring legal action, noting that he is talking with lawyers for the diocese. There is no need to rush into

court," he said.

He lauded the recent efforts of Bishop Timothy J. Harrington to help victims by installing hotlines so people can directly call the bishop or other diocesan officials about alleged abuse. MacLeish said the diocese has offered counseling for victims.

SEXUAL ADVANCES

Paul T. Roughan of Worcester and William L. Schultz of Natick told the Telegram & Gazette last week that Holley made sexual advances toward them and numerous other boys in Boylston when they were growing up in St. Mary of the Hills parish, Boylston, in the mid 1960s. Schultz has met with Harrington and told his story last week to a representative of District Attorney John J. Conte's office, but

Hotline numbers

People who believe they were sexually molested by the Rev. David J. Holley or other priests can call the Worcester diocese hotlines and talk directly to Bishop Timothy J. Harrington or other diocesan officials.

The numbers are: Bishop Harrington, 751-6710; Auxiliary Bishop George E. Rueger, 751-6712; Monsignor Lawrence A. Deery, 751-6715; Sister Paula Kelleher, 751-6752; the Rev. Rocco M. Piccolomini, 798-5697; Monsignor Edmond T. Tinsley, 751-6724 (days) or 892-4886 (nights and weekends).

Conte said no investigation currently is in progress.

MacLeish is the lawyer who represented a number of people who said they were molested by former priest James R. Porter when he served in the Fall River diocese.

Holley served in the Worcester diocese from 1962 to 1972 until then Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan ordered him to go to a retreat in New Mexico operated by a religious order called Servants of the Paraclete.

FILL-IN PRIEST

Ten people in New Mexico have filed there against Holley, alleging he raped or molested them when he was allowed to be a fill-in priest while at the retreat.

Holley, ordained in Worcester in 1958, served at St. Philip's Church,

Grafton from 1962-1964; St. Denis Church, East Douglas from 1964 to 1966; St. Mary of the Hills, Boylston, from 1966 to 1968 and Our Lady of Fatima, Worcester, from 1968 to 1972.

NATIONAL SCANDAL

The lawyer said the allegations against Porter by as many as 100 people appears to have opened a major national scandal, which reaches far beyond the Worcester diocese. Those allegations have prompted others to "come out of the woodwork" in numbers he did not anticipate, MacLeish said. Sixty-eight people recently settled their claims against the Fall River diocese, which they had accused of covering up their complaints against Porter.