

# TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

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## Priest fighting extradition

Holley facing sexual molestation charges in New Mexico

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A former Worcester diocesan priest who allegedly sexually molested eight boys in New Mexico after being sent to a treatment center there is fighting extradition from Maryland to face the charges.

John C. Stubbe, investigator for the district attorney's office at Alamogordo, N.M., said yesterday he has asked New Mexico Gov. Bruce King to extradite the Rev. David A. Holley, 65, from Maryland because he waived extradition on Monday. The state has 90 days to complete the process.

Holley, who retired in 1988, was living near Denver, Colo., until he was called back to Worcester in late December, Holley told the Rocky Mountain News of Denver.

He then entered the St. Luke Institute, a treatment center for clergy and religious in Suitland, Md.

The Rev. John Geaney, spokesman for St. Luke Institute, said the Upper Marlboro (Md.) District Court Monday released Holley in their custody and made the state-licensed psychiatric center responsible for his whereabouts.

Stubbe said Holley went to court with his lawyer and a lawyer from the institute to say he would not willingly go back to New Mexico. Holley, after a four-hour hearing, was released on his own recognizance into the custody of the institute, but is being required to wear an electronic monitoring bracelet, Stubbe said.

A spokeswoman at the court said she could not give out information about the hearing on the tele-

phone.

Holley served at four parishes in the Worcester diocese until 1969. The diocese in 1972 sent him to Jemez Springs, N.M., for treatment for pedophilia at a center run by a religious order called Servants of the Paraclete.

An Otero County, N.M., grand jury on Jan. 28 indicted Holley on eight felony charges of sexually molesting young boys in the Alamogordo area about 20 years ago. He was charged with five counts of aggravated sodomy, two counts of sodomy and one count of sexual assault, according to District Attorney Bert Atkins said.

Holley and the Worcester diocese are defendants in a lawsuit filed last month in Albuquerque by lawyer Bruce Pasternack on behalf of some of the alleged victims.

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