

## Local News

# Sex suit names area priest

## Webster man says Teczar abused him 25 years ago

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**WORCESTER** — A Webster man has filed suit against a Roman Catholic priest and the Diocese of Worcester alleging that he was sexually abused by the priest 25 years ago.

David Lewcon, 42, of 89 Bates Point Road, Webster, filed the civil lawsuit April 26 in Worcester Superior Court against the diocese and the Rev. Thomas Teczar of Dudley. Lewcon alleges in the suit that he was sexually abused repeatedly by Teczar in 1971 and 1972 when Teczar was assigned to St. Mary's Church in Uxbridge and Lewcon was a teenage member of the parish.

### ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

Raymond L. Delise, director of communications for the diocese, said diocesan officials do not comment on cases that are in litigation. Delise said Teczar has been on administrative leave "from any priestly duties" for "a number of years." Further information on Teczar's past assignments in the diocese was not immediately available.

According to the suit, Teczar lives at 52 Mason Road in Dudley. Teczar did not respond to a reporter's message left on his answering machine. James G. Reardon, the lawyer for the diocese, said he had not seen Lewcon's suit and declined to comment.

Lewcon alleges that the sexual abuse occurred in the church rectory and at Teczar's parents' homes in Worcester and on Cape Cod. Lewcon accuses Teczar of fondling his genitals and making him fondle the priest's genitals.

According to the suit, Lewcon has suffered mental distress and emotional harm and did not begin to understand that he had been damaged by Teczar's alleged conduct until 1993.

"He did not appreciate the connection between the harm he suffered and the defendant's conduct until he achieved various realizations and awareness after years of suffering and attempting to cope on his own with the effects of the defendant's abusive treatment and eventually



Rev. Thomas Teczar

seeking specialized counseling," the suit states.

The suit accuses the diocese of negligence for allegedly failing to properly supervise Teczar's employment.

In a telephone interview, Lewcon, who is represented by the Boston law firm of Brody, Hardoon, Perkins & Kesten, said he did not fully under-

stand how he had been hurt by Teczar's alleged conduct until he began to talk with other "survivors" of sexual abuse by members of the clergy.

"It's sort of like does a fish know it's in water? You need someone outside to say, 'Hey. Look it. You're in water.' You don't go around talking about it. You don't realize the load that you're carrying," he said.

"You develop a shame and you really implode. You just carry it around with you," Lewcon said. He said Teczar often provided him with alcohol before engaging in sex with him.

### 'VERY FRIENDLY GUY'

He described Teczar as "a very friendly guy, very accommodating, very acknowledging.

"But he had this hidden agenda," he said.

Lewcon said filing suit against Teczar "just seemed to be the right thing to do.

"I don't hate him. Maybe I do, but I don't know it. I feel very much, in a sense, betrayed," he said.

"It's really to right a wrong," Lewcon said of the suit. "This guy should not be a priest... There are other kids out there that haven't been molested yet that might never be molested," he said.