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## Cover-up of priest's sex misconduct denied

By Clark Karpovics  
Staff Writer

The auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis emphatically denied on Sunday that he and other church officials covered up the sexual misconduct of the Rev. Thomas Adams.

Adams, a former priest in the diocese, has been charged in two lawsuits of molesting several boys under his spiritual care during more than two decades as a Minnesota priest.

The Rev. Robert Carlson, auxiliary bishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis, said he first

learned of an alleged pattern of sexual abuse in December 1982 when Adams admitted having sexual relations with a young boy at Columbia Heights. The bishop said the priest was quickly removed from his parish duties and placed in an "ecclesiastical hospital treatment program" at St. Mary's hospital in Minneapolis.

The Rev. Jeffrey Anderson, an attorney for the boys who allege they were sexually abused by Adams, said Sunday evening that officials from both the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul had

Minneapolis later earlier than 1982 about Adams' sexual activities and continued to place the priest in positions where he had contact with adolescent children.

"We just as emphatically state they did cover up," Anderson said. "The diocese of Winona 'knew' about it. He couldn't deny it."

"He's been in and out of hospitals since 1984 and the archdiocese says that they had knowledge that should have corrected his conduct."

Adams said Adams in 1975 admitted to the Rev. Loren Holbert, then bishop of the Winona

diocese, that he had abused adolescent boys. He said that information was "communicated to the vicar general or auxiliary to Archbishop John Roach" in 1976 before Adams became a priest in the Twin Cities.

Carlson said Roach knew of reports about an alleged homosexual incident involving Adams and an adult before Adams was transferred to the archdiocese of St. Paul. He said that Roach explored the matter with Adams and that the priest "probably misinformed" him.

The bishop learned that church officials had heard of Adams' sexual relations with children when the priest admitted to it in 1980 and that Adams immediately was put into treatment.

Carlson said Adams was returned to priestly duties only after he had completed the treatment program and had agreed to take no further contact with an archdiocese official. He said the priest then was assigned to St. Peter's Church in Apple Valley with the verbal stipulation that he would have no contact with youth.

While serving as a priest at St. Peter's in Apple Valley, Adams had



Rev. Robert Carlson, auxiliary bishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Details actions of church.

## TV protests greet debut of 'Amerika'

By Clark Karpovics  
Staff Writer

A candlelight vigil opposite the United States, protesting against ABC and television stations and demonstrators by Yale students marked Sunday night's first installment of a miniseries about a Soviet takeover of the United States.

"Amerika," a 104-hour ABC-TV series that depicts the Soviet Union's Moscow takeover of the United States, has been collected as potentially damaging to U.S.-Soviet relations and peace efforts.

That was the focus of many calls to television station KSTP, which broadcast the program for the Twin Cities. By a margin of about 3 to 1, citizens were asked if the program, according to the Rev. William J. Brennan, a Catholic priest who led the

## Springlike sprint



## Soviets free dissident

### Release of Josef Begun follows Moscow protests

By Felicity Barringer  
New York Times

MOSCOW — The Jewish dissident Josef Begun, imprisoned for all a series of increasingly violent demonstrations in southern Moscow last week, was released Sunday, a Soviet official said Sunday.

Begun's son, Boris, also said he had heard nothing official.

The 46-year-old Begun has been the most prominent Jewish dissident imprisoned in the Soviet Union since the release a year ago of Herta and Paul Amirani, who was then known as Anatoly Shcharansky. Begun's reported release comes after the end of a series of about 140

# Abuse

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Risen Savior, according to a complaint filed last week, Adamson had sexual contact with a 13-year-old boy.

Carlson said that if mistakes were made in the archdiocese's handling of the Adamson case, it was because church officials did not properly understand how to deal with child abusers. He said reports of child abuse by priests will be dealt with firmly and swiftly in the future.

"there was nothing to it."

Acting on a determination that the incident was "inappropriate behavior" and not sexual abuse, Carlson said, the archdiocese decided to ask Adamson to sign a written agreement that he would have no contact with young people.

"If there had been a case of sexual abuse at that time, rather than just inappropriate behavior, I think we would have removed him," Carlson said.

Church officials did remove Adamson from the priesthood in 1984 when they learned of allegations that Adamson had abused Gregory Reidle about once a month from the fall of 1977 through the spring of 1979 while serving as a priest in St. Paul Park.

"In 1984, when the real case came to our attention, and as I said in my statement that was reported to us by the State of Minnesota, we investigated that and brought the information we had and sat down with Thomas Adamson," Carlson said. "He admitted that he had had contact with the Reidle boy. And I recommended to Archbishop Roach that since this violated his written contract with us, that we would terminate him at that time."

The bishop said the termination meant all of Adamson's rights and abilities to function as a priest in the archdiocese were removed. Later, the Diocese of Winona terminated Adamson.

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"It's our policy today that there really is no cure for someone with the disease of pedophilia, but only a chance for some recovery," Carlson said. "Therefore, it's our current policy that a minister would never return to parish because how can you separate working with adults and working with children since families make up that parish community?"

Carlson said that his and Roach's concern in cases of sexual abuse always is focused on the victims; and that a memorandum he sent Roach in 1984 advising "the archdiocese posture itself in such a way that any publicity will be minimized" was not referring to protecting the church from public embarrassment.

"The memo recommending that Father Adamson be terminated was the same one in which the phrase exists that's been quoted in the media about us in some way wanting to limit the publicity in the matter," Carlson said. "We, at that time, assumed that since the state had told us about the sexual abuse allegation, it would be a public matter."

"Our concern obviously was for the victim," Carlson said, "that he would receive proper care and we were working to get him that care at that time. The memo referred to terminating Adamson so that when this became public, people would not see us as irresponsible because we had kept him in a position once the contract was so clearly violated."

"You have to get within our mindset," he said. "In 1980, we were aware of one case of sexual abuse. Looking back at it, since I was obviously involved in that, I treated this as a case of someone who had really violated his vow of celibacy ... an inappropriate acting out."

Carlson said he hoped the allegations will not result in a lengthy public trial.

"I'd love to settle this," Carlson said. "And the reason I say that is because those children have been through enough."