

Roman Catholic priest charged with sodomizing two children

A Roman Catholic priest was charged yesterday with sodomizing two children who had been referred to him for counseling in 1981 and 1982. The Rev. Daniel Clark, 40, of SS. Simon & Jude Church, 4335 Hazelwood Ave., was charged with one count of first-degree sodomy and two counts of second-degree sodomy, said Officer Gary Fields of the Jefferson County police.

The alleged offenses took place between September 1981 and August 1982 when Clark was counseling an 11-year-old boy and a 12-year-old boy, Fields said. At the time, Clark was associated with St. Rita Catholic Church, 8709 Preston Highway.

Detectives with the Louisville-Jef-

erson County Crimes Against Children Unit began the investigation two weeks ago after receiving an anonymous call through the county Department for Human Services hot line. Clark has been placed on administrative leave by the Louisville archdiocese, which means he can't work publicly as a priest, according to the Rev. William L. Fichteman, director of the archdiocesan Office of Clergy Personnel. Clark also has no official assignment.

Clark was ordained to the priesthood in 1980 and has served in the Louisville archdiocese since then.

Fields said Clark will turn himself over to authorities in Jefferson Circuit Court at 9 a.m. today.