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Priest who abused boys is sentenced

A Roman Catholic priest was sentenced yesterday to serve three months in prison and remain on probation for 15 years for sexually abusing two boys he had counseled at a local parish.

The Rev. Daniel C. Clark, 40, pleaded guilty in September to one count each of first-degree sexual abuse and second-degree sodomy.

During sentencing, Jefferson Circuit Judge Ken Corey ordered Clark not to have contact with juveniles for 15 years. Corey also ordered Clark to continue psycho-sexual counseling and to make himself available to participate in sexual-abuse treatment programs.

According to court records, Clark fondled an 11-year-old boy in late 1981 and early 1982, and performed oral sodomy on a 12-year-old boy between February and August 1982. At the time, Clark was a parish priest at St. Rita Catholic Church, 8709 Preston Highway.

Clark, ordained in 1980, had been counseling the boys. After his arrest June 23, the Louisville Catholic archdiocese placed him on administrative leave, meaning he could not work publicly as a priest.