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# Previous Dowd allegation acknowledged

## Diocese says it received Keene complaint in '71

The Associated Press 2/10/81

Contrary to what it said last week, the Diocese of Manchester did know of a previous allegation of sexual abuse against the late Rev. Karl Dowd.

The diocese has acknowledged that it received an allegation against Dowd in February from a man who says Dowd molested him in 1971 when he was 16 at a church in Keene.

On Saturday, The Associated Press reported that a different man said he was molested by Dowd at Camp Fatima in Gilmanton in 1972 when he was 9 years

told the Concord Monitor he and his mother immediately reported Dowd to the pastor of St. Bernard's Church in Keene in 1971, and Dowd was appointed director of Camp Fatima shortly afterward.

"To say that we were shocked is necessarily an understatement," the man said. "It's the ultimate example of putting the fox in the chicken coop."

Dowd was director of the summer camp, which hosts hundreds of boys ages 6 to 15 each year, until his retirement in 1990.

Arsenault told the man the diocese had no record of the 1971 complaint he and his mother made.

The other alleged victim was abused by

Dowd the following year after being made an altar boy, according to his lawyer, Peter Hutchins. Now 39, the man, who lives in Manchester, also asked not to be identified.

In February the diocese released a list of 14 priests accused of sexual abuse. Dowd was not listed.

The man who spoke to the Monitor and his brother said they contacted church officials to ask why. They learned Dowd had just died while on vacation in Florida.

In the three months since, the man said, he has spoken with several diocesan officials, including Bishop John McCormack, so he did not understand why the church told the AP no one had previously complained about Dowd.