

Abbeville family files 2nd lawsuit against church

Parents learn daughter allegedly abused by a different Catholic priest

By CHRIS ROSA
news editor

For the second time in five months, an Abbeville family learned another one of their children may have been sexually abused by a priest who was serving at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church in Abbeville.

In April, the Abbeville family filed the first lawsuit against the church, the

Diocese of Lafayette and Fr. Gilbert Gauthé. Gauthé is accused of sexually abusing their son when he was young in the early 1970s.

The second lawsuit was filed on behalf of their daughter who is accusing Fr. Marshall Larriviere of raping her when she was 13 and being forced to perform oral sex when she was eight.

Fr. Larriviere, who served

at St. Mary Magdalen from 1963 to 1968, is alleged to have committed the crimes in 1964 and 1968.

Fr. Larriviere is retired and living in Florida.

In the lawsuit it states, when their daughter was eight and attending Mt. Carmel Elementary School, Fr. Larriviere asked her to meet him after school at the Vermilion Catholic Field

House. When she arrived, he asked her to kneel down and forced her to perform oral sex on him. Afterward, he instructed her to keep this event between themselves.

In 1968, when she was 13, she and her brothers and sisters visited the priest at his camp on Bayou Jack. While her brothers and sisters were playing, the priest asked her to come into the camp,

removed her clothes and then allegedly raped her.

Their daughter did not tell anyone, kept it a secret and suppressed the memories until recently when she remembered the events after learning a close friend may have also been abused by Fr. Larriviere.

In the lawsuit, it states that since recalling the alleged abuse that took place

35 years ago, the victim is suffering from severe depression, crying spells, anxiety and mental and emotional distress. She also continues to suffer from flashbacks and nightmares. She is unable to work, because of her recollection of the abuse, the lawsuit said.

Attorney John Keller of Madisonville is representing both plaintiffs in the two separate lawsuits. He did not return the *Meridional's* phone call.