

Porter accuser names 2nd priest in sex abuse

By BILL HUTCHINSON

While ex-priest James R. Porter is settling into prison life, one of his victims has raised new child molestation allegations against another Catholic clergyman.

Arthur B. Trundy, 39, of New Bedford claims the Rev. Thomas E. O'Dea of Lawrence Street Church in New Bedford molested him in the 1960s.

In a statement to the Fall River Diocese, Trundy charges O'Dea and an unidentified priest took turns raping him at St. James Grammar School in March of 1966.

The diocese released a statement saying the new allegations are under investigation. Officials of the diocese met with Trundy last night to discuss the charges, Trundy's relatives said yesterday.

The diocese released a statement in which O'Dea, 58, said: "I have been made aware that an allegation was made against me, and I can only say I have completely and utterly denied it."

Trundy, a drug and alcohol counselor, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

His attorney, James MacLeish Jr. of Boston, said Trundy has not made any financial demands of the church.

"I think Mr. Trundy's concern is that he be listened to and he be taken seriously," MacLeish said yesterday.

Trundy has personally informed Fall River Diocese Bishop Sean P. O'Malley of the allegations, MacLeish said. Trundy was sexually abused four times by James Porter in the basement of St. James Church during the 1960s.

O'Dea and Porter served together at St. James in the 1960s.

In a published report this week, Trundy said that within the last year he has recalled being molested by the priests as a youth. He said remembering his abuse has helped him understand his childhood.

"I was so scared to go to school," Trundy told the Standard-Times of New Bedford. "I was so nervous all of the time, and I didn't know why."