

# Regional news

MILWAUKEE SENTINEL Friday, March 4, 1994 4A

## Priest gets 12 years in sex assault

### Was convicted of molesting boy

By DAVID DOEGE  
Sentinel staff writer

Father Dennis A. Pecore, a Catholic priest convicted for a second time within six years of sexually molesting a boy over an extended period, has been sentenced to 12 years in prison followed by 10 years of probation.

Pecore, who was placed on probation and ordered to serve a year in jail after he was convicted of sexually assaulting a teenage boy over a three-year period ending in 1987, was told at Wednesday's sentencing that it was too late for second chances.

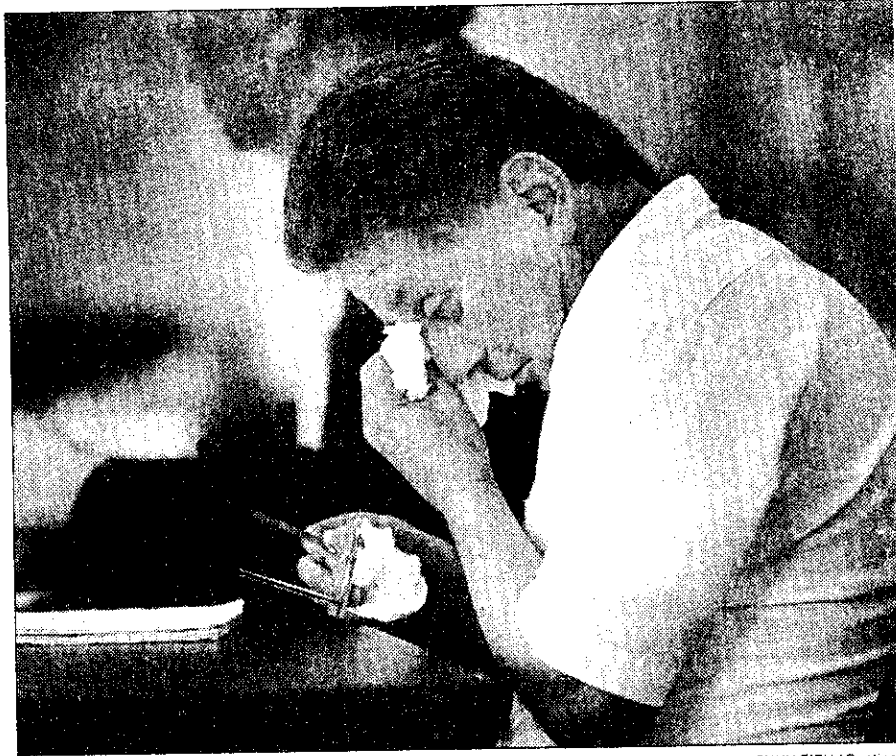
Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Jeffrey A. Wagner called him a "risk to the children of the community."

The prosecutor, Asst. Dist. Atty. Gale Shelton, called Pecore "a child molester who acknowledges molesting children."

"He would verbally threaten him," Shelton said of Pecore's second victim, a boy who was 8 when his family befriended Pecore despite his conviction. "He would threaten to make him sleep on the floor.

"While out of town, he would threaten to have the boy taken back home on the bus.... He would say, 'You know I'm only doing this because you want me to.'"

Wagner said: "I know that Father Pecore has done some tremendous things for the communi-



BENNY SIEU / Sentinel

**Sentenced:** Father Dennis A. Pecore, a Catholic priest convicted of molesting a juvenile boy, weeps Wednesday during testimony at his sentencing hearing in Circuit Court.

ty. But sometimes good people do bad things and you, sir, have done some horrific things."

Pecore, 43, was sentenced on two counts of first-degree sexual assault of a child. Pecore pleaded no contest to the charges in December.

The charges related to about 20 sex abuse incidents during the time Pecore was on probation for the earlier conviction.

The abuse, which went unreported by the victim until July 1993, occurred between the fall of 1989 and August 1992 while Pecore was live-in coordinator at

Jordan House, 4040 N. 66th St., a care center for elderly priests.

Pecore, who grew up in Rhineland, is a member of the Society of the Divine Savior, or Salvatorians.

Some of the abuse occurred while the boy stayed at the center overnight and other abuse occurred on out-of-town trips.

In discussing his conduct Wednesday, Pecore at one point compared his sexual deviance to the wart on his foot.

"If you don't get at the roots of it all, it grows back again," Pecore said.

At another point, Pecore took some blame for his first victim, a boy whose family attended St. W. Lisbon Ave. Good Counsel Church.

"I perceived him to be a willing participant, a gressive one," Pecore said.

And at another point, Pecore said: "I know I deserve help. Obviously, other people would be at risk if I were here today."

The boy's mother called Pecore a "master of manipulation and deceit."

PROSEC