

# Ex-altar boy claims sex abuse

By DAVID WEBER

A former Roman Catholic altar boy has charged that the Rev. John Cotter of St. Theresa's Church in West Roxbury sexually abused him from the time he was 7 years old until he was about 14.

The same alleged victim also has charged that a Boy Scout leader, William Reynolds of Potomac Avenue in West Roxbury, sexually abused him during approximately the same time period.

The charges are contained in a lawsuit filed Friday in Suffolk Superior Court by the alleged victim, who is now 31 years old and lives in Washington, D.C.

Reynolds is named as a defendant, as are the Roman Catholic archbishop of Boston and the Boy Scouts of America. Cotter, who has died since the abuse allegedly occurred, is not a defendant.

The plaintiff's attorney, Laurence Hardoon, said the suit does not allege culpability on the parts of the church or the Boy Scouts beyond their capacities as employers.

The suit alleges that Cotter committed "repeated acts of sexual abuse" on the premises of St. Theresa's Church and rectory between the years of 1988 and 1975.

Hardoon said he has spoken with at least one other person who claims he was victimized by Cotter, and Hardoon's investigators are looking into the possibility that there are additional victims.

Between 1989 and 1976, the suit charges, Reynolds repeatedly sexually abused the plaintiff on Boy Scout camping trips to the Blue Hills, Needham, Long Island and New Hampshire.

Cotter reportedly was transferred out of West Roxbury to St.

John the Evangelist Church in Beverly in the mid-1970s.

Among the unanswered questions, according to Hardoon, are why was Cotter transferred in 1986 from St. Margaret and Mary's Church in Beverly to St. Theresa's, and why was he transferred to St. John the Evangelist nearly 10 years later.

John Walsh, a spokesman for the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, said he did not personally know Cotter and could not comment on the matter because it is in litigation.

Reynolds could not be contacted.

The plaintiff, whose identity is not revealed by the Herald because he allegedly suffered sexual abuse, claims he continues to suffer from mental and emotional distress as a result of his childhood experiences with the church and the Scouts.

# Riverside station revamp under way

By LAURA BROWN

MBTA officials yesterday kicked off a \$24 million renovation of the Green Line's Riverside station in Newton.

The renovation project is

yard area.

After the project is completed, riders will no longer have to loop around the outside of the train yard before getting off their trolleys, officials said.

The work will also make Riverside the first Green Line

longest of the MBTA's four Green Line branches.

Each day, more than 5,200 streetcar and bus passengers pass through Riverside station, which is located near the intersection of the Massachusetts Turnpike and Route 128.

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