

CINCINNATI.COM POST REDS BENGALS JOBS CARS HOMES WEATHER TRAFFIC SUBSCRIBE



NEWS OPINION BUSINESS LIVING SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT CLASSIFIED

THE POST

Back Issues
Kentucky Post
Cincinnati.Com
AP News
News Summary
News
Business
Living
Opinion
Sports
Search
Contact Us

SCRIPPS LINKS

Do It Yourself
Fine Living
Food Network
Home & Garden

DAILY FIX

Weather
Traffic
Talk, Cincinnati
Giveaways
Horoscopes
Lottery Numbers
Comics
Crosswords
Stahler

SPORTS

Bengals
Reds
Golf Guide
Hockey

ENTERTAINMENT

Movies
Dining
Menus
Local Events
Video Games

CLASSIFIEDS

Jobs
Cars
Homes
General

LOCAL INFO

Maps / Directions
Send an E-Postcard

Chesley: Pedophile priests on job

By Paul A. Long
Post staff reporter

A lawyer suing the Diocese of Covington maintains that the church continues to employ and support priests who are known pedophiles, a direct contradiction to assurances Bishop Roger Foys gave less than a month ago.

One of them was suspended from priestly duties Friday morning after the Lexington Diocese, where the priest now works in a Frankfort parish, learned about the charges.

In a motion filed in Boone Circuit Court, attorney Stan Chesley says he knows of at least two cases in which the diocese is currently allowing the priests to continue to have contact with children and teen-agers.

One of the priests is teaching at a school in the Covington Diocese, he said. The second, Stephen Gallenstein is living at Good Shepherd parish in Frankfort, which is in the Lexington Diocese. The Lexington Diocese said today that Gallenstein had been placed on leave of absence while the matter is investigated. He is barred from priestly duties during that time.

Diocesan policy calls for a person accused of sexual abuse to be placed on a leave of absence. A priest must also be moved away from his current assignment and away from any contact with children, the policy says.

Covington Diocese spokesman Tim Fitzgerald said he could not discuss the specific allegations in the lawsuit.

"The diocese did receive the legal filing yesterday," he said. "We will be filing a response in due time."

The filing says Gallenstein — identified in the filing only as Priest 31 — molested and stalked a 13-year-old girl in the early 1980s at an unidentified school, which then was part of the Covington Diocese. The abuse was reported to then Bishop William Hughes, and the priest was sent off for counseling.

After which, he returned and since has been regularly assigned to parishes in Eastern and Central Kentucky, which are now in the Lexington Diocese.

Neither priest is named in the filing, and several details are redacted or filed under seal. But Chesley maintains that his clients have filed affidavits — a statement given under oath — that the priests abused

Post Feature



Store at the



Subscribe to



Lottery Nur



HGTV



Personal Fi

Contact Us

Ed
The Cin

Ed
The Kei

Wel

Spor

Livir

Busin

Metr

Kent
City

LATEST N. INTERNAT

- Isabel's I From N.C
- Washing From Hu
- Court to Calif. Rec
- Two Yale Approve
- Ind. Hon at Memoi

Visitor's Guide
Local Links
School Links

HELP
Feedback
Subscribe
Search
Survey

them, in some cases more than 20 years ago.

In the filing, Chesley rejects a diocesan paper released on Aug. 29, in which Foys apologized for the church's past dealings with victims of sexually abusive priests. Foys also said the diocese was doing everything possible to prevent further acts of sexual abuse, and told Northern Kentucky Catholics, "I can assure you now that, to the best of my knowledge, there is no priest in public ministry in the Diocese of Covington who has abused a minor."

That statement, Chesley said, is "incorrect and misleading."

"The diocese has consistently over the years sent abusive priests to other dioceses where they have the opportunity to abuse children," he said. "Abusive priests are still assigned to work with children within and without the diocese."

Fitzgerald said the Foys and the paper contained accurate information.

"I'm going to take Bishop Foys at his word," Fitzgerald said.

Chesley outlined one example: The priest — identified as "Priest 32" — was one of many who, in the 1970s, were part of a ring of priests who held parties in which they brought boys as their dates. Among those priests was Father Earl Bierman, now serving a 20-years sentence for molesting young teenage boys, Chesley said.

After Bierman abused one youth for several years, he passed the boy around to other priests, Chesley maintains.

The youth "was routinely fondled, hugged, kissed, whispered to in the most vulgar terms, and his body parts were rubbed," Chesley said in the lawsuit. "Priest 32 engaged in sexual misconduct with (the boy) and several other boys when he was 11 years old."

The boy began to resist the advances, but the priest, who Chesley said was "a highly placed official" at the school the youth attended, would discipline the youth, increasing the punishments any time the boy resisted his advances.

In 1976, the priest was sent away for treatment and disappeared, Chesley said. He is no longer listed as a priest. But last year, the victim saw his picture in a school publication announcing that he was returning there to teach, Chesley said.

"To our knowledge, he is teaching there currently," Chesley said. "The diocese has once again given him access to a captive group of children."

Chesley said the diocese's recent admission showing that 30 of its 372 priests since 1950 sexually abused at least one child, and that it had received complaints from 158 victims, downplays the extent of the problem. He said he and other lawyers have examined more than 5,000 documents from the diocese, but that "substantial documentation is missing or has been withheld."

- Peltier Se
for '75 FE
- JetBlue C
Passeng
Contract
- Man Jalle
Allegedly
Jogger
- 2 Ex-Jur
Guilty to
- Manuscr
Light on
- Palestini
Designat
Arafat
- Saddam's
Minister
- Seven Ri
Killed in
- Slain Sw
Minister
- Lori Bere
a Peruvia
- Snow To
Terrorism
- Brazil to
Modified
- Ford Will
Louis Pl
- NYSE Bo
Panel for
Search
- Bio of M
Christopi
- Boeing A
Cooperat
Tech

"There are more pedophile priests and more victims of (the diocese's) negligent and outrageous conduct than even the shocking number revealed in (its) public relations release," Chesley said.

Chesley, a Cincinnati lawyer known nationwide for his work in class-action lawsuits, is suing the diocese in Boone County, alleging a long pattern of sexual abuse by priests and its cover-up by diocesan officials.

In addition to Chesley, two Northern Kentucky attorneys -- Barbara Bonar of Covington and Michael J. O'Hara of Crestview Hills -- helped file the lawsuit and investigate its claims.

They want to make it a class-action lawsuit on behalf of anyone abused by priests in the Covington Diocese. But diocesan lawyers are objecting, saying each case is distinct and a class-action status is not merited.

This week, Chesley filed his arguments for class-action status, saying the diocese -- indeed, the entire Catholic Church, including the Vatican -- had a policy of keeping its knowledge of sexual-abusive priests secret.

He cited a 1962 Vatican policy declaring that all matters relating to child sexual abuse, which it called "the worst crime." But the policy, which also called the molestation of children an "unspeakable crime," said one possible remedy is to transfer the priest to another assignment, Chesley said.

"The policy dictates that these matters 'be pursued in a most secretive way, and after they have been defined and given over to execution, they are to be restrained by perpetual silence," Chesley said, quoting an 1867 instruction from the Vatican.

Publication Date: 09-19-2003

NEWS OPINION BUSINESS LIVING SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT CLASSIFIED

Cincinnati.Com
The Cincinnati Post

Search our site by keyword:



Search also: News | Jobs | Homes | Cars | Classifieds | Obits | Coupons | Events | Dining
Movies/DVDs | Video Games | Hotels | Golf | Visitor's Guide | Maps/Directions | Yellow Pages

SUBSCRIBE TRAFFIC WEATHER HOMES CARS JOBS BENEFITS REDS POST C

Need help? | Suggestions | News tips | Letters to editors
| Place a classified | Subscribe | Circulation

Copyright 2003 The Cincinnati Post, an E.W. Scripps newspaper.
Use of this site signifies agreement to [terms of service](#) updated 12/19/02.

