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Wisconsin diocese reveals that a 'credibly accused' priest, the Rev. Simeon Engl, worked in San Diego

By Peter Rowe

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The Rev. Simeon Engl, a Catholic priest who served in the San Diego diocese from 1955 through 1969, was “credibly accused” of molesting several boys in 1950, when he was working in the diocese of Green Bay, Wis. (Nelvin C. Cepeda / San Diego Union-Tribune)

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The Rev. Simeon Engl, a Catholic priest who served in the San Diego diocese from 1955 through 1969, was “credibly accused” of molesting several boys in 1950, when he was working in the diocese of Green Bay, Wis.

Engl is not known to have assaulted anyone during his years in California, although the San Diego diocese received two inquiries about the man after his death in 1989.

“One person said he and his brother had been molested by Father Engl in the 1950s,” said Kevin Eckery, a spokesperson for the local diocese. “Another Wisconsin resident suggested there may have been a case when he was in Norco, in San Bernardino County.”

Simeon Engl, also known as Samuel Engl, was attached to St. Mel’s in Norco from January 1959 through December 1964. At the time, the San Diego diocese included San Bernardino County.


The allegations against Engl came to light this week, when the Green Bay diocese issued an updated list of 47 priests who had been the subject of one or more substantiated allegations of


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sexual abuse of a minor. Engl, who had been ordained in 1930, served in 10 Wisconsin parishes across 25 years.

His time in Wisconsin included a two-year leave, 1950-1952.

When he arrived in San Diego, Green Bay did not alert local church authorities about any allegations made against him. Officially, he seemed to have a clean record.

 "During his lifetime," Eckery said, "we got nothing in terms of complaints."

 In 1955 and '56, Engl trained at a series of parishes, spending three months each at St. Joseph parish in Upland, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Calexico and Precious Blood in Calexico.

 Then he spent almost three years at St. Jude in San Diego, from February 1956 until January 1959. Five years at St. Mel's in Norco followed, then a two-year-plus assignment at San Diego's Mercy Hospital, from January 1965 to June 1967,

His final assignment was as a parish administrator at St. Mary Magdalen in Jacumba, June 1967 until his retirement on July 2, 1969.

He died Jan. 4, 1989, at Mercy Hospital. He was 85.

Details on the allegations lodged against him in Wisconsin are scarce. "We'll be contacting Green Bay," Eckery said, "to see what they have."

The San Diego Union-Tribune

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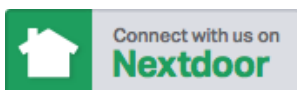
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