

Lee Central Coast Newspapers

The Lompoc Record



Issue 244 • www.lompocrecord.com

Thursday, October 13, 2005

50¢ daily, \$1 Sunday

Priests sent to local parishes after abuse claims

Documents show the men had access to children after complaints surfaced

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The Los Angeles Archdiocese assigned two priests to northern Santa Barbara County

parishes, even after the men were accused of sexually abusing children, documents released Wednesday revealed.

Though both men previously were named in civil suits filed

by alleged victims of abuse, the documents were the first to show they had access to young parishioners after complaints surfaced. Neither man has publicly admitted abusing children.

The Rev. Willebaldo Castro was made associate at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Santa Maria in January 1976, just four months after he was

accused of molesting a 16-year-old boy, according to the documents.

Castro, who left the archdiocese and returned to his native Mexico in 1980, also faces a lawsuit alleging he molested a minor at St. Mary's in 1977.

The archdiocese fired Castro from the priesthood in 1989 for what was called a "morals

charge," but readmitted him in 1972.

Church officials received three complaints about the Rev. Michael Buckley before his 1987 transfer from Catalina Island to a pastor's position at Immaculate Conception in New Cuyama.

Prior to his assignment in northeast Santa Barbara Coun-

ty, a parent of two boys complained to church officials in 1959 that Buckley exposed himself to the youths, according to documents.

The papers also show that someone placed an unspecified phone message to church officials in 1983 "indicating that

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