

He's involved in corruption case

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Cleric put on probation; will return to India

A Roman Catholic priest who pleaded guilty to two counts of corruption of minors will spend the next five years on probation and will undergo continuing psychiatric treatment. However, he is granted permission to return to his native India and care for his aged parents.

Under no circumstances is the priest to be assigned to clerical duties within the Scranton Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church. He is not to have any personal contact with youths.

Rev. Sebastian Vadakekottaram, who had served at Pittston, Nanticoke and Carbondale parishes, entered his guilty plea Dec. 3.

He was sentenced Thursday by Judge Bernard J. Podcasy.

The sentencing included notice that the defendant was a first offender and there would be no jail time imposed.

Suspended sentences were imposed and the defendant will be on probation for five years. He is to make restitution of \$1,930 plus any expenses for mental problem treatment for the children involved in the case.

The priest is continue treatment at St. Luke's Institute at Maryland while he remains in this country.

A plea on behalf of the priest was made by his legal

counsel, Attorney Joseph McGraw, who stated, in part, that the psychiatric evaluation report on the defendant indicates that the problem has been addressed and there is no longer any threat to anyone that a similar incident would reoccur.

A letter from Most Rev. James C. Timlin, bishop of Scranton, informed Judge Podcasy that the priest has asked to be returned to India as soon as possible. Also, that he had fully cooperated with the authorities and had undergone treatment.

Parents of the victims in the case were present in court. The mother told the Judge that: "I and my husband and children were involved and it was a series of incidents over a long period of time. She said "the children do have problems."

Commonwealth counsel was Assistant District Attorney Daniel Pillets.

The court was informed that the families of the victims in the case are preparing a civil lawsuit against the priest and the Scranton Diocese.

Man charged for allegedly making threats

An East End man was arraigned Thursday before District Justice Martin R. Kane, on the charge that he made terroristic threats against a teacher and an administrator at

Miles is free on \$500 bail; a preliminary hearing before Justice Kane has been scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 30, at 12:45 p.m.