

Official Would Defrock Priest Over Book

By EDWARD J. McFALL
PHILADELPHIA (UPI) —
An official of the local Catholic diocese believes he has grounds to have a controversial Pittsburgh priest defrocked for fraud

Rev. Leo McKenzie, director of the Delaware Valley Catholic Office for Television and Radio, said Tuesday he would file ecclesiastical charges against the Rev. Richard Ginder, author of a book entitled "Binding with Briars: Sex and Sin in the Catholic Church."

Father McKenzie made his threat after he saw Father Ginder's appearance on the Phil Donahue Show, a nationally syndicated talk show originated in Chicago and broadcast here.

The show, in which Father Ginder discusses such things as homosexuality among priests and their "false position in confessionals," was shown live in Chicago and is syndicated to about 60 cities nationwide for viewing later.

Father McKenzie said it "would be unprofessional, unpriestly and sacrilegious me not to challenge this."

He charged Father Ginder is "billed as a priest of the diocese" but has been without assignment from the Diocese of Pittsburgh since 1964. He accused Father Ginder of "misrepresenting and exploiting his position as a priest for profit motives" and said his ecclesiastical action would charge him with "public scandal, unorthodox teaching and unorthodox pastoral practices."

The Philadelphia priest said the ecclesiastical charges could be in the nature of seeking to have Father Ginder suspended as a priest or to have him removed from the priesthood.

He said he believes he has "good grounds" to have Father Ginder defrocked but would have to check with canonical experts. He said he wants Father Ginder to "be reduced to a lay person. That's the way I want to go."

A spokesman for the Pittsburgh diocese confirmed that Father Ginder has not been assigned since 1964, adding that the diocese is "not responsible for his statements."

In 1969, Pittsburgh police filed 52 morals charges against Father Ginder after they said they found diaries and pictures of teen-aged boys engaged in various sex acts in his apart-

ment. More than one American woman out of four does not get sufficient medical care during pregnancy. This is according to information from the National Center for Health Statistics.

He was placed on probation to receive psychiatric care after he pleaded guilty to several of the charges in October, 1969.