

# Bishop Bans City Priest-Author

The Rev. Richard Ginder, a Pittsburgh priest and professed homosexual, has been prohibited from publicly performing his priestly duties by the Most Rev. Vincent M. Leonard, bishop of the Pittsburgh diocese.

Father Ginder, 62, a priest since 1940, is author of a controversial book, "Binding with Briars: Sex and Sin in the Catholic Church." The book attacks Catholic teaching on sexual morality.

Bishop Leonard removed Father Ginder's priestly faculties, meaning he is not able to perform publicly as a priest. That includes celebrating mass, hearing confession and other priestly functions.

Bishop Leonard took the action after seeing Father Ginder promoting his book on a Wheeling, W.Va., television show.

The book was written from a home for priests in trouble, where Father Ginder had gone in 1969 after getting 10 years probation in Pittsburgh for several morals charges, including corrupting minors.