

# Priest guilty

## Boy prostitute not happy with verdict

JEFFERSON, Ohio (AP) — A boy who testified he prostituted himself at the urging of his priest says he was left dissatisfied with the priest's conviction on one of five charges of compelling prostitution.

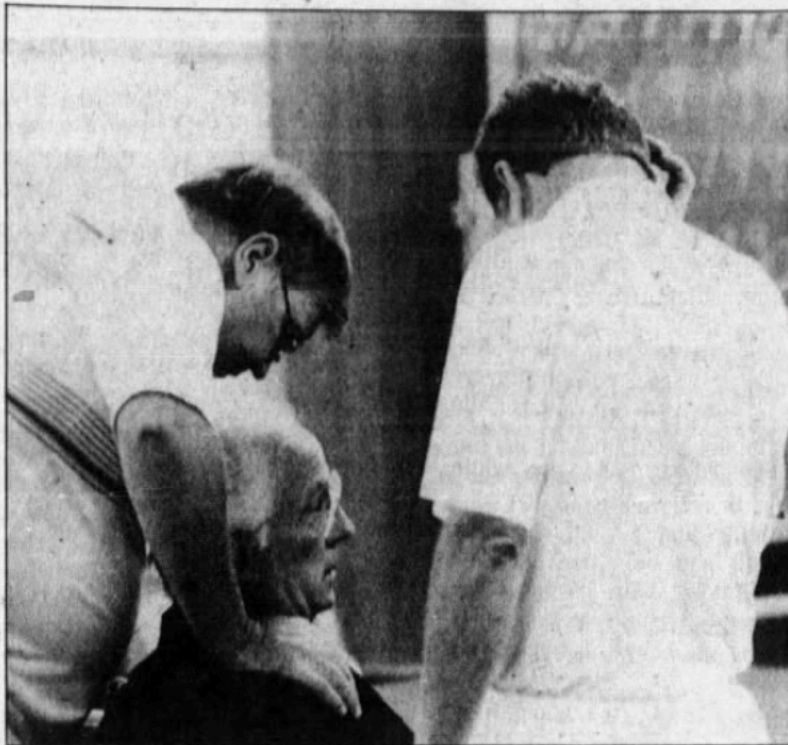
"I'm not fully satisfied," said the 17-year-old Geneva boy, who testified he permitted sex acts in exchange for money from the priest, the Rev. Robert E. Hill.

"I'm sorry for the community — they are victims, too," the teen-ager said a few hours after Ashtabula County Common Pleas Judge Gary L. Yost pronounced his verdict Thursday to a packed courtroom in Jefferson.

Prosecutor Gregory J. Brown had sought conviction on five counts of compelling prostitution against Hill, 63, who had been pastor of Assumption Catholic Church in Geneva.

The boy, in a post-trial interview with The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer, said he has been humiliated by taunts from neighborhood children of "Father Hill loves you."

"All I got from the community was to be put down," he said. "Everywhere I'd go, people would break their necks to look at me. I know what happened, and I can't change the way people think."



The Rev. Robert E. Hill is conformed by fellow Catholic priests as they wait for a verdict. (AP Photo)

The newspaper said he called Hill a "sick man" and a "dirty old man."

"He is the phoniest man in the world," the teen-ager said. "No one knows that. But I do."

The boy's mother said her son dropped out of high school and has been receiving counseling. He plans to take a general education development test later this summer.

Sentencing for Hill was delayed pending a pre-sentence investigation by the Ashtabula County Adult Probation Office.

Hill admitted on the witness stand that he had a sexual encounter with the boy but said a \$20 bill he gave him was not for the sex, but so that

the boy would have some spending money.

Hill, who spent more than two hours on the stand Wednesday, said he did not have a problem with sexual activities with minors. He was the only defense witness.

The boy testified Hill paid him \$20 for a sex act once in November, three times in December and once in January.

Hill said he only gave him \$20 bills twice, once as a birthday gift and once after the sex act.

"It was a fond relationship," Hill said. "I liked him. I shouldn't use the past tense. I still do. He's a young man who needs help."