

Former Toledo priest faces sentencing for molesting child

Associated Press

TOLEDO — The mother of a boy sexually abused by a former pastor of a Roman Catholic church says she's angry that church officials appear to be more concerned about the priest's welfare than her son's.

The Rev. John Hemstreet of Toledo pleaded guilty earlier this month to two counts of gross sexual imposition. He said he fondled a 10-year-old boy in the stairwell of a hotel.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Toledo said Hemstreet, former pastor of St. James Church on the city's south side, was on a leave of absence when the abuse occurred.

Hemstreet is scheduled to be sentenced March 16 in Lucas County Common Pleas Court. He could get up to four years in prison.

The Rev. Donald Heintschel, diocese spokesman, said Hemstreet is in treatment for alcoholism and sexual abuse at a Maryland psychiatric hospital.

He said the diocese is paying for the treatment.

The victim's mother said she is angry. She not only wants the priest jailed, but wants the diocese to help pay for counseling for her son.

She said her son is seeing only a school counselor.

"I want him locked up, pay for what he's done. I want him to pay the bills and admit what he's done. Nobody has said they're sorry," she said.

Karmen Sullen

Hair Stylist
has returned

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