

# Port Angeles priest faces morals charges

The Daily News and AP

PORT ANGELES — A Port Angeles priest who grew up in Longview has been charged with five counts of indecent liberties involving boys.

The charges were filed Monday

against the Rev. Paul J. Conn, 36,

said Clallam County

Prosecutor David

Bruneau. He said

Conn, the son of

Roger and Louise Conn of Longview,

has been relieved of his parish duties

by the Catholic Archdiocese of Seat-

tle and has been summoned to ap-

pear in court on Friday.

Bruneau said Conn, who was an

assistant pastor at Queen of Angels

parish in Port Angeles, is charged

with having sexual contact with five

boys under age 14 between 1987 and

one month ago. Some, but not all, of

the five were altar boys, youths who

assist priests at services, Bruneau

said.

Police were continuing their in-

vestigation, he said, but he declined

to specify whether he expected addi-

tional charges.

If convicted, Conn faces a max-

imum of 10 years in prison on each



Rev. Paul Conn

Seattle to discuss the case.

"Words cannot adequately describe the sadness and concern we feel for all involved," Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen said in a statement. "Above all else, I want to express my heartfelt concern for those whose lives have been impacted by this difficult and painful situation and assure them that we are doing everything in our power to deal responsibly with all concerned."

Conn was removed from the parish and his duties suspended as soon as the issue was brought to the attention of the archdiocese, according to Hunthausen's statement.

Conn was told by the church to seek independent legal counsel, and families of the boys have been offered counseling, the statement said.

Conn, who was born in Longview, graduated from Mark Morris High School in 1968. According to a 1985 Daily News story, Conn worked at Longview Fibre Co. and Weyerhaeuser Co. and served four years as an Air Force medic.

Conn then returned to Longview and attended Lower Columbia College for two years. He transferred to Seattle University and graduated in 1978 with a degree in philosophy. He spent 2½ years with the Franciscan order of the Santa Barbara Province. He then returned to the Seattle Archdiocese office of campus and young adult ministry. Conn entered the Theological College of Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in 1981, where he studied for four years.

He was ordained in Seattle in 1985 and assigned as an assistant priest at the Port Angeles parish shortly thereafter.