

# Ex-priest released from jail after sex sentence

Former priest **Paul J. Conn**, a Longview native, was released today from Twin Rivers Correctional Facility in Monroe, Wash., after serving time for fondling five altar boys.

**Conn**, who was born in Longview and graduated from Mark Morris High School in 1969, served more than half of a four-year term for six counts of indecent liberties involving boys ages 10 to 13. He pleaded guilty to the charges in 1988.

**Conn**, now 39, told authorities he fondled the boys at the Queen of Angels Parish in Port Angeles in 1986 and 1987. He had been appointed to the parish in July 1985 after being ordained into the priesthood.

During the investigation, **Conn** told Port Angeles police he had a sexual desire for young boys for quite some time. He said he hugged the boys from behind, stroked their chests and abdomens, then fondled their genitals. He said the incidents happened during altar boy practice or after church services.

The Archdiocese of Seattle, for which **Conn** served as a priest, said in a press release that it has terminated its official relationship with him. He may no longer serve as a priest or minister for the church.

**Conn** is free to live and work where he wishes, but must register as a convicted sexual offender with local police.