

## Deacon is cleared of morals charges

The last two of four morals charges against a Catholic transitional deacon were dropped yesterday.

Marvin A. Carney Jr., 35, of the 8700 block of Preston Highway, was arrested May 16 and charged with sexual abuse, sodomy, distribution of obscene material to a minor and unlawful transaction with a minor.

The sodomy and sexual-abuse charges were dismissed June 17 in Jefferson District Court. The remaining charges were transferred

to the court's juvenile division, where the boy's identity could remain confidential.

At a hearing yesterday, Assistant County Attorney Stephen K. Mershon asked Judge William E. McAnulty to dismiss the unlawful-transaction charge. McAnulty did, and then dismissed the charge of distribution of obscene matter.

Carney's lawyer, Jerald R. Steinberg, said his client "feels excellent that it's over." He said Carney was supposed to be ordained a Roman

Catholic priest the week after he was arrested.

Men become transitional deacons as a step toward entering the priesthood. Carney was serving at St. Rita Church, 8709 Preston Highway. Steinberg said that Carney has been on a leave of absence from the church and that he will now try to proceed with his ordination plans.

Louisville police arrested Carney in a parking lot near an adult bookstore after questioning a boy who was standing at the rear of the Mil-

ner Hotel, 320 W. Jefferson St.

The boy, who was 15, told police he was waiting for a man to come out of the store with some books for him.

Police reported that 15 minutes later Carney came out of the bookstore with a brown paper bag and handed it to the boy. Police said they found adult books in the bag.

The sexual-abuse and sodomy charges, dropped last month, stemmed from incidents the boy told police had occurred in April.