

Avoyelles Catholic Priest Pleads Guilty in Morals Case

MARKSVILLE — A Catholic priest in the Avoyelles Parish community of Fifth Ward has pleaded guilty in state court to a charge of indecent behavior with a juvenile.

Judge James N. Lee placed the Rev. Charles Dekeukelaere on probation and fined him \$1,000.

Dekeukelaere has also been transferred to the East Coast, District Attorney Eddie Knoll said Friday.

Knoll, queried by The Town Talk, explained that the priest en-

gaged in a sexual act with a 14-year-old boy in the church rectory at Fifth Ward.

The prosecutor said the priest engaged in "indecent behavior with a juvenile by engaging in sexual activities to incite his (priest's) sexual desires."

He said the incident was brought to his attention by the Child Protection Agency in Marksville and that he, in turn, asked for a Sheriff's Department investigation.