

# Zaunbrecher:

## *Catholic priest held on \$5,000 bond for exposing himself*

LAFAYETTE (UPI) — A Roman Catholic priest charged with exposing himself to two undercover police officers at a city park frequented by homosexuals is being held on \$5,000 bond, authorities said.

The Rev. Charles Zaunbrecher, 54, was booked Thursday evening with obscenity for indecently exposing himself to a pair of Lafayette vice squad officers last week in Girard Park, Lafayette Parish authorities said.

The park, which is located near the University of Southwestern Louisiana, has a reputation as a gathering point for homosexuals, said Police Capt. Gerald Boutte.

A spokesman for the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette, said Zaunbrecher has been suspended

from the priesthood and ordered by Bishop Gerard Frey to undergo psychiatric evaluation.

"The diocese is cooperating with the authorities," Gerald Dill said.

In addition to serving as administrator of St. Joseph's Parish in Milton, Zaunbrecher was vicar for the West Lafayette Parish Regional Deanery.

Zaunbrecher is a native of Robert's Cove and was ordained to the priesthood in December of 1957.

He has served in churches and diocesan positions around the Lafayette Diocese, including Holy Rosary at Kaplan, St. Anthony at Eunice, St. Mary Magdalene in Abbeville, St. Michael's in Crowley, St. Edward's in Richard, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Jules, both in Lafayette.

The case against Zaunbrecher is the fourth sex-related charge filed against Louisiana Catholic priests in the past three years.

The Rev. Gilbert Gauthe Jr. is serving a 20-year prison term after pleading guilty last October to 33 charges he molested young altar boys. Gauthe has admitted sexual involvement with boys at every church he served since he was ordained in 1971.

Gauthe was treated at a Maryland hospital with Deprovera, a drug designed to diminish his sex drive. He is in protective custody at a medium security state prison in Haynesville, Department of Corrections spokeswoman Martha Jumonville said.

The Rev. Ronald Fontenot was suspended from religious duties in the Lafayette diocese in 1983 amid allegations of molesting boys. He was charg-

ed in February with sexually abusing adolescent patients while counseling at a drug treatment center in Spokane, Wash.

Fontenot is undergoing psychiatric evaluation at a California institution.

Last fall, a priest from Montgomery in central Louisiana was sentenced to one year in a Florida jail for performing a lewd act in the presence of a child less than 16 years old.

The Rev. Norman Joseph Rogge, 60, pleaded guilty in the incident, which also involved another man and a boy at a cabin in woods near Inverness, Fla.

Rogge was sent to a church-operated facility in New Mexico for treatment, then was returned to Citrus County, Fla. to serve his sentence.