

# Reports of abuse ignored

Church, parents  
allegedly did little

BOSTON (AP) — Roman Catholic priests who either witnessed or were told of sexual assaults on children by a fellow priest had him transferred to other parishes but reportedly did little or nothing else about it for years.

Apparently, neither church officials nor parents reported the alleged assaults by Rev. James R. Porter to police.

Police chiefs in North Attleboro, Fall River and New Bedford, where Porter was assigned between 1960 and 1967, told The Boston Globe they have no record of complaints about him.

In recent weeks, 62 men and women have said Porter abused them while they were children in the 1960s.

In 1967, church officials sent Porter to a New Mexico treatment center maintained by the church for priests with alcohol or drug problems.

## First treatment, then expulsion

He was treated there for two years and said the church expelled him from the priesthood in 1969 over his objections.

Porter now lives in Oakdale, Minn., with his wife and children. The Bristol County district attorney's office is investigating allegations against him to determine whether a grand jury review is warranted.

A woman who did not want her name used told the Globe she was living in North Attleboro in 1963 when her son, then a 12-year-old altar boy, told her he had been sexually molested by Porter, then a priest at St. Mary's Church and Grammar School.

The mother said she went to the parish rectory and told the Rev. Edward Booth, Porter's superior, and the Rev. Armando Annunzio.

"I said he was molesting little boys, and I said, 'I want him out of here, quick. There is no way I am going to receive communion from that man's dirty hands,'" she said.

She said Booth, now dead, told her Porter was being treated for his problem and there was no need to remove him from the church. She said she told other parish priests but neither they — nor her husband — believed her.