

# **Priest in Muskegon pleads no contest to sexual charge**

**Booth News Service**

**MUSKEGON —** The Rev. Lawrence Hartwig, a Roman Catholic priest who is chaplain of Mercy Hospital here, has pleaded no contest to an assault charge resulting from sexual advances he made toward a 16-year-old youth.

Hartwig, 43, was ordered to pay \$100 court costs on a reduced charge of simple assault. He originally was charged with gross indecency between males, a felony.

A Mercy Hospital spokesperson said Hartwig has been on personal leave for several weeks. Officials at the Diocese of Grand Rapids said they were unaware of the charge and had no comment.