

Priest put on probation

CAMBRIDGE (UPI) — A judge has ordered probation for a Roman Catholic priest who admitted having homosexual relations with a teenage altar boy.

Middlesex Superior Court Judge Walter E. Steele sentenced the Rev. Eugene O'Sullivan to five years on probation and ordered him to seek treatment at a Catholic institution for priests with emotional problems.

He also ordered the priest to pay \$1,500 to the youth's family for his psychological treatment and to stay away from the family.

O'Sullivan, 52, formerly an assistant pastor at St. Agnes Church in Arlington, pleaded guilty Thursday to a charge of rape of a child.

The state had sought a sentence of three to five years in Walpole State Prison. But O'Sullivan's lawyer, Timothy O'Neill, pleaded for leniency because it was the priest's first offense and he was "amenable to rehabilitation."

The Rev. Robert Banks, chancellor of the archdiocese of Boston, also asked that O'Sullivan be given a chance to receive treatment at church institutions in Maryland or New Mexico.

The case came to light earlier this year when the youth, now 19, "went to Arlington police to get this burden off his chest, to remove this

curse from his shoulders," according to the prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney George Murphy.

Murphy said O'Sullivan started having sexual relations with the victim in 1978, when the boy was 13. He said the sexual activity continued for two years.

Murphy said the youth has been unsure of his sexuality and has contemplated suicide. He said the victim is engaged to be married, but

according to his fiancée, cannot stand to be touched.

The young man has also had problems with school work and employment, Murphy said.

Following the sentencing, the archdiocese released a statement that said, in part: "We support the court's action. . . . It's also our firm intention to be of assistance to Fr. O'Sullivan in the rehabilitative process."

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