

# Diocese disputes abuse claims

The Roman Catholic Diocese said Monday that a Bellows Falls man was mistaken when he claimed he had reported sexual abuse at a Burlington orphanage in the 1960s to two of his relatives — who later became high-ranking officials for the diocese.

Joseph Gelineau said he and his sister both told the Rev. Louis Gelineau, now Bishop of Providence, and their uncle the Rev. Edward Gelineau, a retired monsignor, about abuse by nuns at St. Joseph's Orphanage.

Bishop Kenneth Angell, leader of the statewide diocese of Burlington, said he spoke with Louis and Edward Gelineaus concerning the claims made by the Windham County man. Joseph Gelineau said he was at the orphanage for two years.

"Both learned of these allegations through media reports and both deny they had been informed of these abuses in the

1960s or subsequently," Angell said in a one-page statement.

Msgr. Gelineau said Sunday the claim was "definitely a lie" and Bishop Gelineau issued a statement Monday saying the claim was "absolutely false."

Louis Gelineau noted he was ordained in 1954 and was not a seminarian in the 1960s at the orphanage.