



The Rev. David V. Roche was caught dropping videotapes.

## Priest enters plea in case of sex videos

*Ex-S. Buffalo pastor admits dumping tapes*

By DALE ANDERSON  
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The Rev. David V. Roche, 79, retired pastor of St. Agatha's Church in South Buffalo, pleaded guilty Tuesday in Provincial Court in Fort Erie, Ont., to dumping more than 100 obscene videos along Fort Erie highways.

Judge Donald Wallace placed Roche on a year's probation and ordered him not to purchase any films, videotapes or magazines depicting explicit sexual behavior during that time.

Roche, dressed in clerical garb, was arrested June 9 as he was driving to 7 a.m. Mass in Buffalo from his summer home in Fort Erie after police saw him drop two videotapes from his car window along Dominion Road. A search of his home turned up 35 more tapes in a living room closet, police said.

Officers had staked out the area around Dominion and Kraft roads after residents in the Crescent Park area turned in more than 120 tapes they had found during the previous year. All were said to contain scenes of male homosexual activity.

Roche's attorney, Peter Barr of St. Catharines, Ont., told the court that Roche acquired about 150 tapes by mail order, watched them and tossed them along the roads to "get rid of them."

Roche was charged with four counts of exposing obscene material to public view but was allowed to plead guilty to only one count.

Judge Wallace said it would be impossible to punish Roche more than he has already punished himself.

"He brought shame to himself, and he very well knows that," the judge said.

Roche, a native of Buffalo, was ordained in 1942. He was pastor of St. Agatha's, 65 Abbott Road, until he retired in 1978.