

## NM man's suit against priest names Worcester Diocese

By Bronislaus B. Kush, TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

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A New Mexico man who says he was raped about 25 years ago by the Rev. David A. Holley is suing the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester in federal court — charging that local church authorities knew the diocesan priest was a pedophile, but nonetheless allowed him to practice his ministry in other parts of the country.

Officials said that Rev. Holley left a long trail of molestations at churches from Central Massachusetts to the Southwest before being sentenced in 1993 to up to 275 years in prison for abusing and sodomizing eight boys in Alamogordo, N.M.

He died behind prison walls in 2008 at the age of 80.

On Monday, lawyers for Eran J. McManemy, a 35-year-old resident of New Mexico, filed suit in U.S. District Court in New Mexico alleging that church authorities in Worcester and dioceses in New Mexico, Texas and Colorado knew that Rev. Holley was molesting children but covered up his behavior and kept moving the cleric from post to post.

Raymond L. Delisle, a spokesman for the Worcester diocese, said he was unaware of the suit and could not comment.

Mr. McManemy said Rev. Holley was one of three priests who abused him while he served as an altar boy at St. Jude Parish in Alamogordo.

Other defendants in the suit include the Archdiocese of Denver and the Texas dioceses of El Paso, San Angelo and Amarillo. St. Jude Parish was, at one time, under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of El Paso.

According to court documents, Mr. McManemy was born in Albuquerque and at the age of 6 he moved with his grandparents, who had adopted him, to Alamogordo, which now is under the auspices of the Diocese of Las Cruces.

He became an altar boy at St. Jude's, where he allegedly was molested frequently on church grounds by the pastor, the Rev. Wilfred Diamond.

The abuse stopped, the documents said, when Rev. Diamond retired in 1988.

However, it began again at the hands of the new pastor, the Rev. Daniel R. Barfield.

According to the suit, Rev. Holley was a guest of Rev. Barfield at the rectory and joined in on the abuse.

Merit Bennett of The Bennett Firm in Santa Fe, the lead lawyer for the plaintiff, said his client just recently began to come to terms with his abuse.

"There are just so many people out there who have been abused by these sick priests," Mr. Bennett said. "It's amazing that nobody had reported what had been going on for years."

The suit said that Mr. McManemy suffered physical and psychological damage as a result of the abuse.

It charged that church authorities in four states, through "a culture of silence," "condoned, ratified, secreted, aided, and covered up" Rev. Holley's actions for 30 years.

The 21-page suit said that the defendants ignored the warnings of experts regarding the recidivism of pedophile priests and transferred Rev. Holley without warning.

It said that Worcester officials knew of Rev. Holley's predilections as early as the late 1960s yet failed to notify local law enforcement.

Rev. Holley left Worcester in 1969 when he was sent to a treatment center operated by the Servants of the Paraclete in New Mexico.

While serving with the religious order, allegations surfaced that he had sexually abused boys in the Alamogordo area. He was subsequently arrested and later pleaded guilty to associated charges.

The Worcester diocese settled a civil suit involving Rev. Holley that was filed by Phil Saviano, who helped build up the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests in New England. Mr. Saviano said that he was abused by Rev. Holley when he was assigned to St. Denis Church in Douglas.

In a press release, SNAP urged other possible clergy abuse victims in New Mexico to come forward.

“We also hope that every single person who saw or suspected clergy sex crimes in New Mexico will also speak up, expose corruption, call police,” the release states.

“We especially hope that current and former church employees and members who have information or suspicions about sexual misdeeds by clergy will find the strength to end their complicity and contact law enforcement, so that kids will be safer.”

Mr. Bennett said he believes the other two priests named in Mr. McManemy’s suit are also dead.

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