

# Allegations

friends — Steven Stolar and Terrence Smith of Millville — said they were abused as youngsters by McGarvey and the Rev. William C. O'Connell, formerly a priest in Rhode Island.

Hayes' mother, Alfia Hayes of Millville, and Stolar's father, Steven M. Stolar, also of Millville, have joined the suit, claiming emotional hardship caused by the abuse revelations.

## ACE Death's Day

— see Velez, page 5-A

# Report: Diocese knew of priest sex abuse in '86

## Memos outline charges

From The Associated Press

CAMDEN — Molestation accusations against a Roman Catholic priest were made to leaders of the Camden Diocese in 1986, according to church records.

Internal memos obtained by The Philadelphia Inquirer said the Rev. Gary R. Hayes told diocesan officials in October 1986 that he had been sexually abused more than 13 years previously by the Rev. Joseph F. McGarvey while Hayes was a parishioner and McGarvey the pastor at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Millville.

Hayes and two other men filed a lawsuit alleging church officials covered up the molestation.

Church officials have denied the allegations and earlier this week Camden Bishop James T. McHugh said the diocese "had no prior knowledge of any abusive sexual behavior" that prevent McGarvey from serving as a pastor. But according to the memos, Hayes met with two diocesan priests in 1986 to discuss his interest in becoming a priest in the diocese, the newspaper reported Wednesday.

Hayes outlined, in some detail, his contact with McGarvey and described his relationship with the priest as "most inappropriate." McGarvey abused alcohol on numerous occasions and made certain seductive sexual advances to Hayes, the memo said.

"Hayes stated that during these times of alcohol abuse, Father McGarvey became either most 'affectionate' or quite violent," the memo said. "Further, he indicated that 'several' other young men in the parish were aware of this situation and had been 'victimized' by Father McGarvey."

The disclosure was made in a

"confidential confessional type setting," said diocesan spokesman the Rev. Carl Marucci. The priests did find the allegations "credible," he said.

McGarvey, 68, is on an indefinite leave of absence from his current parish in Runnemede.

A second memo stemming from another meeting between Hayes and two priests from the diocese's Vocation Office said Hayes was rejected as a candidate for the priesthood because of the sexual abuse. The diocese, however, recommended Hayes to become a priest in Kentucky, where he is now assigned.

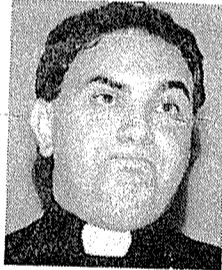
McHugh — in a statement issued Wednesday by the diocese — maintained that church officials were not aware of the sexual abuse allegations until December 1992. He also said Hayes was rejected for priesthood because of his academic record.

The memos were written after Hayes applied for a third time to become a priest in the diocese, McHugh said. His first application was accepted, but Hayes left the program after graduating from college, the bishop said.

After Hayes was denied readmission by the Camden diocese, he applied and was accepted in the Rochester, N.Y., diocese, according to McHugh. Hayes completed his studies for the priesthood but was rejected for ordination by Rochester, the bishop said. He then applied to the Camden diocese a third time.

Hayes, 40, was ordained in Owensboro, Ky., in 1990. He is completing his first two-year assignment as an associate pastor at Holy Name of Jesus Roman Catholic Church in Henderson, Ky.

Last week, Hayes became the first priest ever to sue church officials over alleged childhood sexual molestation by a clergyman. The cleric and two childhood



HAYES

Please see Allegations, page 5-A