

# Priests, churches are sued

Plaintiffs claim years  
of sex abuse as boys

**By Terry Galindo**  
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A Catholic priest serving a 14-year sentence for molesting two boys was targeted in two lawsuits filed Monday.

The lawsuits, filed in San Joaquin County Superior Court, accuse the Rev. Oliver Francis O'Grady of molesting two young boys and say the church knew about his actions and failed to stop him. The lawsuits do not specify what amount of monetary awards they seek.

Also included as targets of the lawsuits are the Catholic Diocese of Stockton, Bishop Donald W. Montrose of Stockton, St. Andrew's Catholic Church of San Andreas and Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Turlock.

The plaintiffs are identified as John Doe 4A and John Doe 4C. One lawsuit claims that John Doe 4C, now 25, was abused from 1978 to 1981, at times on the premises of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. John Doe 4A, now 17, claims to have been abused from 1984 to 1991, sometimes on the property of St. Andrew's Catholic Church.

O'Grady admitted to inappropriately touching a 10-year-old as early as 1976, the lawsuits say, yet the church allowed O'Grady to serve without restriction at several area parishes. This negligence is what led to the abuse of the plaintiffs, the lawsuits say.

Wednesday, Monsignor James Cain of the Stockton Diocese said he had not yet seen the lawsuits and could not comment on specifics. He said the church took steps to correct any wrongs done to parishioners by O'Grady.

At the time of O'Grady's arrest a letter was read in all the parishes where O'Grady served, Cain said, urging anyone with any knowledge of wrongdoing by the priest to bring it to the attention of the church.

No one did, he said.

"We did everything that could be done," Cain said. "We did everything legally possible."

In November 1993, O'Grady was sentenced to 14 years in state prison on four counts of molesting two boys.

O'Grady first served as a priest in the area in 1971 in the St. Anne's parish in Lodi. He went on to serve in Stockton, Turlock, San Andreas and Hughson.