

# Courts & crime

## Delaware priest accused of fondling teen

By Bill Tolbert

WILLIAMSBURG—A Catholic priest and bishop in Delaware are defendants in an \$11.5 million suit alleging that the priest sexually molested a teenage boy during a trip here in 1985.

W-002 of Wilmington, who was 15 at the time, is suing the Rev. Edward Dudzinski of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Wilmington, and Bishop Robert E. Mulvee of the Wilmington diocese.

The suit alleges that Dudzinski brought W-002 and another teenage boy to Busch Gardens for an outing in June or July of 1985, where they "spent two nights in the Busch Gardens Hyatt Hotel," according to the suit. No such Hyatt exists in the Williamsburg area.

The suit alleges that while W-002 was in the care of Dudzinski, the priest "did fondle, sexually touch, and otherwise sexually abuse" W-002.

The suit alleges a similar occurrence the previous year when Dudzinski brought a group of teenagers to Busch Gardens and stayed at a Virginia Beach hotel.

The Rev. Joseph R. McMahon, chancellor of the diocese, issued a short statement: "While this matter is in litigation and because individuals' rights are involved, it is not appropriate for us to make any further comment."

Calls to Dudzinski's residence were unanswered. A secretary at St. Mary Magdalene Church said he is on a leave of absence and

could not be reached. Two calls to Mulvee's office were not returned.

Five counts seeking financial settlements are specified in the suit.

• \$500,000 for alleged negligence by Mulvee and the diocese as Dudzinski's employer, charging that Mulvee "knew or should have known that Dudzinski was a homosexual and active pedophile who required counseling and treatment so as not to subject W-002 and others to an unreasonable risk of sexual abuse and harm."

• \$3 million for alleged negligence by Dudzinski, saying he "knew or should have known that his sexual attraction to young boys required counseling and treatment so as not to subject W-002 to an unreasonable risk of sexual abuse and harm."

• \$3 million for alleged assault and battery on W-002.

• \$3 million for alleged intentional infliction of emotional distress upon W-002.

• \$2 million for alleged clergy malpractice.

Coincidentally, the Washington-based Catholics for an Open Church Inc. told the annual fall meeting of the country's bishops this week that the church is not doing enough to discipline pedophile priests.

Michael Schwartz, chairman of the organization, indicated that as many as 300 cases of pedophile priests have been reported to civil authorities, and that the church has paid \$50 million to settle some of those cases.

EXHIBIT

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