

HE'S CLEARED IN CHILD MURDERS

2d Sex Charge Filed Against Priest

A Catholic priest from Farmington was charged Monday with a second count of criminal sexual conduct and at the same time was cleared of any connection with a series of child murders in Oakland County.

Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson said that an intensive investigation of Father Gary Berthiaume, 35, of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, ended Saturday afternoon when the priest passed a polygraph (lie detector) exam which concentrated on the murder case.

BUT PATTERSON SAID the investigation produced new allegations of sexual misconduct against the priest and resulted in the warrant recommendation Monday. In addition, said Patterson, a separate allegation involving a violation by Father Berthiaume in Sanilac County was referred to authorities there for prosecution.

A warrant in the Sanilac case was prepared last Thursday but deferred until after the completion of the polygraph exam.

FATHER BERTHIAUME was first arrested by Farmington police Sept. 2 and charged with second-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a 14-year-old boy.

"As a result of the priest's arrest there has been rampant speculation that he was involved in the South Oakland killings," said Patterson. He said the priest has been totally ruled out as a suspect in that case.

Sources in Sanilac County said a fully prepared investigative report on the priest was forwarded to State Police in Sanilac County by Farmington detectives, alleging sexual misconduct by the priest with the same 14-year-old boy at Camp Ozanam, a St.

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