

AP-LA--Church Abuse Suit

Archdiocese faces new allegations of molestation

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - The Archdiocese of New Orleans faces charges by two men who claim that they were sexually abused as children at a Roman Catholic home for youth in a New Orleans suburb.

Fifty-one-year-old Stacey Brown, of Harvey, filed a lawsuit yesterday claiming he was sexually abused at Madonna Manor in Marrero, a facility that took in children who were wards of the court.

Recently, another man who now lives in Wisconsin filed a suit alleging similar claims. That's according to Roger Stetter, the lawyer who handled both cases.

Brown's lawsuit does not identify his alleged abusers, but Stetter says he remembers names and faces. Stetter says Brown's parents gave up their son and two other boys in the early 1960s because they were unable to care for their ten children. Brown was taken to Madonna Manor, a home run by the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Brown claims he was sodomized on several occasions and that he later repressed the memories. He claims memories began to surface five years ago, prompted by visual cues and music at a recent church wedding.

Without discussing the merits of Brown's claims, archdiocesan spokesman the Reverend William Maestri (MAY-stree) says the church hopes to be able to reach out to him and offer him its pastoral care, although Maestri says that's complicated by the litigation.

Brown first contacted Stetter to help the Wisconsin man, Ted Lausche of Lake Geneva, with his claim, and subsequently decided to file his own suit. Stetter says Brown is ill with lung disease. The suit was filed in Civil District Court in New Orleans.

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