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Suspended Priest Faces New Sex Abuse Rap

By Brian Harmon
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A suspended Catholic priest already accused of molesting a 10-year-old boy has been hit with sexual abuse charges that he forcibly touched a man.

The Rev. Gerald Twomey, 53, of Uniondale, was arraigned in Suffolk County 1st District Court in Central Islip Wednesday on charges of forcible touching and third-degree sexual abuse, said Robert Clifford, spokesman for Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota. The alleged incident occurred in "a private home in 1996," Clifford said.

Twomey, the former pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Manorhaven, was placed on administrative leave in June after allegations surfaced that he had sexually abused a 10-year-old boy while he served at St. Anne Church in Brentwood 10 years earlier.

The boy was recovering from a car accident and said he was abused at home, according to a letter written by an official with the Diocese of Rockville Centre to the Suffolk County district attorney's office.

Authorities were prevented from filing criminal charges against Twomey, a priest since 1981, because of the statute of limitation for sex abuse, which was five years at the time of the alleged abuse of the boy.

"We're saddened by the news of the arrest. We'll continue to fully cooperate with law enforcement," said Sean Dolan, spokesman for the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

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