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Sisters Say Abused Them

By Dan Mangan
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Long Island's Catholic diocese is being threatened with a lawsuit by a woman who says the priest who allegedly sexually abused her sister for years also molested her as a child.

"It started when I was 12. There were six years of this, and over 1,000 acts of sexual abuse upon myself," said Darlene LoSordo, 45, of Saint James, L.I.

LoSordo and her sister, Donna Nichols, say they were separately - often several times a week - abused as children in the late 1960s and early 1970s by the Rev. Nicholas Unterstein, who had worked for the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Their lawyer, John Aretakis, said Unterstein - who was defrocked for unknown reasons in 1980 - molested the sisters in his church, St. Hugh of Lincoln in Huntington Station, in their home and in multiple states, among many other places.

Nichols, 47, of East Northport, L.I., said her abuse also began at age 12 and lasted six years.

"If you were in a car [with Unterstein], he would put his hand between your legs and do that with three other people in the car," she said.

Unterstein, 70, did not return a call to his Oceanside, L.I., home. A diocese spokeswoman said she could not discuss the Nichols case.

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