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The Tier in Brief

Two Lawsuits Filed against Churches

By Nancy Dooling
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A Binghamton lawyer has filed two more lawsuits seeking damages against two different churches, saying his clients suffered sexual abuse at the hands of priests assigned to the churches.

A former altar boy at St. Patrick's Church in Owego is seeking \$12 million in damages, court documents indicate.

The church, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester and the Holy See are named in the lawsuit. The plaintiff says he was sexually abused by the Rev. Albert Cason, a priest at the Owego church who was removed by the diocese in 1985 for his conduct. Criminal charges were never filed, court documents indicate.

A former altar boy at St. Patrick's Church in Taberg, Oneida County, is seeking \$40 million in damages from the church, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse and the Holy See.

The plaintiff says he was sexually abused by the Rev. Bernard Garstka, a priest at the church. Garstka was a priest at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, St. Ann's Church and St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Binghamton in the 1960s.

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