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Priest, Marist Brother Accused of Sex with Boys

By Jeffrey K. Parker
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A Roman Catholic priest and a Marist brother were indicted Friday on charges they sexually abused three teenage boys at Mount St. Michael Academy, a boys' high school where they worked, Bronx prosecutors said.

The Rev. Bernard Lynch, 41, of 2728 Henry Hudson Parkway in the Bronx and Timothy Brady, 41, of 252 School St., Watertown, Mass., were accused of molesting three 14-year-old boys at the school for "a couple of months" ending in July 1987, said Ed McCarthy, a spokesman for the Bronx district attorney.

Lynch, who was still at large and believed to be in Ireland, was the campus chaplain at the academy on Murdock Avenue in the Bronx, and Brady was acting principal, McCarthy said.

The alleged abuse was reported by school staff members.

"We got wind of it when the lay teachers complained that they thought something was going on at the school," he said. "The investigators went in and questioned people and interrogated possible victims."

The Sexually Exploited Child task force, an operation coordinated by the FBI and New York Police Department, determined that three 14-year-old youths had been sexually molested by the two clerics and charges were prepared, he said.

Lynch was accused of two counts of first-degree sexual abuse, a felony, two counts of third-degree sexual abuse and one count of endangering the welfare of a minor, he said.

Lynch was believed to have returned to his native Ireland, where he still holds citizenship and which has no extradition treaty with the United States.

Brady was arraigned Friday in the Bronx upon his return from a Marist retreat in Arizona, where he was transferred last summer immediately after he was questioned in the case, McCarthy said.

"Both of the individuals left the Bronx last summer," McCarthy said.

"Brady was taken out of there right after the investigation began. Lynch seems to have left for Ireland about the same time."

Brady was informed of the indictment by his lawyer in Arizona and surrendered voluntarily to Bronx authorities.

Lynch was described as a fugitive and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Prosecutors hope to locate him in Ireland and ask him to return to the United States of his own volition, McCarthy said.

"He will be arrested immediately upon his return to this country," he said.