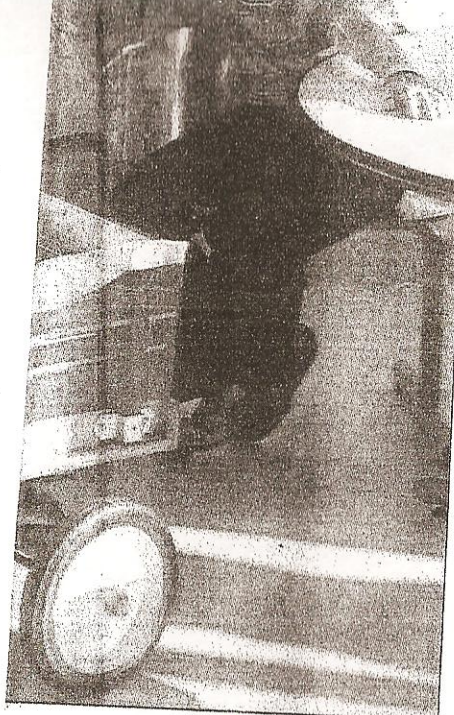


10/31/86



J.B. Forbes/Post-Dispatch

bs noses with Justin Evans Thurs-  
pital as Adam Branham looks on.  
on the day before Halloween.

tion toward homosexuality as an  
"objective disorder." Previous Vati-  
can statements centered primarily on  
the sinfulness of homosexual acts.

Noting that "increasing numbers of  
people today, even within the church,  
are bringing enormous pressure to  
bear on the church to accept the ho-  
mosexual condition," the document  
calls on Catholic authorities to resist  
"an effort in some countries to ma-  
nipulate the church by gaining the  
often well-intentioned support of her

letter had been issued partly in re-  
sponse to increasing activity by ho-  
mosexual groups in Western nations,  
including the United States.

The officials said that the Vatican  
was trying to clarify its position while  
countering what the document called  
"deceitful propaganda" used by pro-  
homosexual groups. Concern over er-  
roneous interpretations of the  
church's position on the subject by  
some pastors and theologians was an-

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## Priest, Teacher At DuBourg Charged With Sexual Assault

By E.S. Evans  
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A Catholic priest and a lay teacher  
at Bishop DuBourg High School in  
south St. Louis were charged Thurs-  
day with deviate sexual assault in-  
volving a 16-year-old male student.

The priest, the Rev. James A.  
Funke, 38, was accused of sexually  
assaulting the boy earlier this month  
at the rectory of St. Bernadette Cath-  
olic Church in Lemay. Funke is the  
associate pastor there.

Police say pornographic material  
was taken by authorities from the

priest's room in the rectory, which is  
on Sherman Avenue near Jefferson  
Barracks.

Jerome B. Robben, 44, a lay teach-  
er at the high school, was charged in  
warrants issued in St. Louis County  
Circuit Court. Funke was held in the  
County Jail Thursday night in lieu of  
\$25,000 bail, but Robben was released  
on bond.

Police said they had seized a large  
quantity of child pornography from  
the suspects' homes. Some of the por-  
nography may lead to additional

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PUMPKINS!**  
Artists carve out  
a new niche for  
themselves by  
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o'-lanterns with  
flash. Page 1F  
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File 10/31/1986

# DuBourg

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charges.

Robben, who lives in the 5100 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, did not actually take part in the incident charged but had encouraged the victim to participate, police said.

The suspects have admitted the offense, authorities said. They were arrested Wednesday after an investigation by county and city police. The investigation was prompted by a call on the child-abuse hot line Tuesday.

Auxiliary Bishop Edward O'Donnell of the St. Louis Archdiocese said in a statement Thursday night that the church, "like the rest of the community, was deeply concerned about the allegations, especially when people holding positions of trust are involved. We are concerned especially about any young people involved."

O'Donnell said the church already had taken steps to assist the youths and their families.

"We are also concerned about the accused," O'Donnell said. "It is our hope and prayer that truth and justice will prevail."

Detective Susan Carr of the county's sex crimes unit said the victim's mother had become suspicious of his relationship with Funke because the priest bought things for the boy but never visited with the family. When she questioned her son, he told her of several incidents at the rectory, Carr said.

She then took the boy to a counseling service, which called the hot line, Carr said.

Detectives said the victim had been enticed rather than intimidated or co-



Funke



Robben

erced and had consented to Funke's advances. They said the priest had bought beer for the boy and given him money for a car.

Carr said that after Funke's arrest at the school, he voluntarily took police to his room at the rectory, where some sexual photographs of boys were found. She said Funke had told police that the pictures were more than 10 years old.

Most of the materials were found when Robben was arrested at home, including numerous photographs, videotapes and commercial films.

St. Louis police investigating Robben's activities said he had taken the pictures and tapes. About six other potential victims are being questioned, investigators said.

They said some of the victims had told them they consented to Robben's propositions for money, some for better grades and others out of fear. The two suspects did not always work together, investigators said.

Authorities said that the teachers' activities apparently had been going on about two years and that the additional victims may be former Du-

Bourg students. Police said they knew of no other current students involved.

Funke, a biology teacher, and Robben, a history teacher, had both been with the school at 5850 Eichelberger Street for seven years. School officials said they have been suspended pending disposition of the case.

Floyd Hacker, DuBourg principal, said two special counselors would be at the school today to assist staff counselors "in helping any student or family member who may be hurt by this thing."

Hacker and Sister Mary Ann Eckhoff, superintendent of St. Louis archdiocesan schools, said officials were cooperating with the investigation. Both said they were shocked and saddened by the charges and were surprised by the arrests.

"We had no evidence that they were anything but dedicated teachers who were very supportive of the school," Eckhoff said. "They were very involved in school activities and well liked by many students."

Parishioners at St. Bernadette's, who were setting up a Thursday night bingo game in the school hall, expressed shock at Funke's arrest. But they declined to talk about it and referred a reporter to the pastor, Rev. Jerome Keaty.

Keaty said Funke had been at St. Bernadette's for three years. "I'm certainly saddened by it," Keaty said.

*Bill Bryan and William C. Lhotka contributed information for this story.*

# Vatican

From page one

other reason for producing the document, the officials said.

The document criticizes the homosexual rights movement in a passage that a Vatican official said was a clear reference to the disease AIDS. "Even when the practice of homosexuality may seriously threaten the lives and well-being of a large number of people," it said, "its advocates remain undeterred and refuse to consider the magnitude of the risks involved."

A large proportion of the people with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome are homosexuals. Health authorities have warned that the AIDS virus can be spread through

effect offers strong support to bishops in New York and Chicago who have recently spoken out against legislation aimed at preventing discrimination against homosexuals.

While deploring crimes against homosexuals, the letter says that "when civil legislation is introduced to protect behavior to which no one has any conceivable right," people should not be surprised when "irrational and violent reactions increase."

The letter, sent to more than 3,000 bishops around the world, also offers a series of recommendations on how

priests can assist a homosexual "by affirming that person's God-given dignity and worth," but it insists on a recognition of the sinfulness of homosexual acts as a first step.

It urged homosexual Christians to lead "a chaste life." "You cannot belong to Christ unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires," the letter said, quoting from St. Paul's letter to Galatians (5:24).

"It is only in the marital relationship that the use of the sexual faculty can be morally good," it said.

# Post Publisher's Home Is Hit By Burglars

... by breaking a glass