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Priest jailed for sexual assaults

Former school chaplain 'robbed boy of his adolescence'

By John Driscoll
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

PETERBOROUGH — A Roman Catholic priest who "robbed a boy of his adolescence," according to a crown attorney, was jailed for 18 months yesterday.

The sentence on Martin Wain, 45, a former monsignor, high school chaplain and parish priest, is to be followed by three years probation.

Wain had pleaded guilty in an earlier court appearance to sexually assaulting a teenage boy over a four-year period.

Wain's lawyer referred to medical testimony that the priest had "child-like sexual attitudes," and said the relationship was like one between two teenagers.

But Provincial Court Judge R.B. Batten said in passing sentence, "This incident has had a major effect on the victim and his family.

"I reject the suggestion that the victim and his family have any guilt whatsoever in this matter, or that somehow the accused is a victim in this case."

Court was told the youth, now 19, will have to undergo psychiatric treatment for several years.

As a condition of his probation, Wain must submit to treatment as recommended by the Clark Institute and must not be involved in any community or professional activity with children under the age of 16 unless accompanied by an adult over the age of 21.

The assaults, which began in 1984 when the youth was 13 years old, were carried out in a private apartment at the diocesan bishop's home, in Wain's Lakefield residence and at a cottage owned by Wain in New Hampshire.

The court had heard testimony that Wain gave the youth money for marijuana and liquor and that they watched pornographic movies and masturbated each other.

During the period of the assaults, the boy became alienated from his family and involved in drugs.

The boy finally reported the relationship to his parents.



OFF TO JAIL: Rev. Martin Wain, centre, is led away after being sentenced in Peterborough yesterday to 18 months. The former chaplain pleaded guilty to sexual assault.

Wain was removed from his clerical duties when his superiors were informed and the victim and his family have received a financial settlement from the Peterborough diocese.

"The accused alienated the youth from his parents, introduced him to illegal substances

and used the relationship to gratify his own sexual preferences," said crown attorney Harry Carleton.

"His actions were a breach of trust in its most extreme form. The sentence must reflect society's abhorrence of this kind of conduct."

Carleton said he had no confidence that Wain would receive any treatment if sentenced more than two years in a federal penitentiary.

"I am much more confident he will receive treatment, even while serving his sentence, in provincial institution," he said.

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