

Man confesses to slaying priest

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JOURNAL REPORTER

Gatineau police have confirmed they are questioning a man who last night confessed to the brutal slaying in April of parish priest Father Roger Rinfret.

Detectives spent all night questioning a man who walked into the police station with his lawyer about 8 p.m. and confessed to the April 1 murder.

No other details were released but police said it could be a day or two before any charges would be laid.

Rinfret's fully-clothed body was discovered at about 1 p.m. by a cleaning woman in Room 10 at the Ritz Motel,

137 Greber Blvd., less than a block from Gatineau police headquarters. He had been stabbed 13 times with a butcher knife, found near the motel the following day.

Rinfret, 49, from Ange-Gardien parish in Angers, was last seen alive about 10:45 the night before the gruesome discovery when he rented the room, only 20 kilometres from the safety of his large, stone home.

After interviewing hundreds of people, police, who have been tight-lipped about their probe, admitted recently the investigation had "bogged down."

Police believe Rinfret was mur-

dered a short time after checking into the room.

A receptionist at the French-language daily *Le Droit* told police she received a phone call about midnight from a man who wanted to know "details about Father Rinfret's death." The caller described himself as "an intimate" friend of the priest.

Hull Bishop Adolphe Proulx said Rinfret sometimes stayed at local motels when "he was too tired to risk the drive home."

He speculated the priest wanted to relax and have some peace after a busy weekend with youth and marriage encounter groups.

Police say no motive has been established for the murder, but that robbery had been ruled out.

Rinfret's death was the second slaying of a priest in the Ottawa-Hull area in the past four years.

The stabbing death of Father Leslie Scriven, also 49, on Oct. 1, 1976, remains unsolved.

Scriven, described as "quiet and studious," left St. Paul's University where he was studying, shortly before suppertime for a walk along the Queen Elizabeth Driveway by the Rideau Canal.

His body was found by a doctor early the next morning.

Cold could nip garden staples