

# Paper took anonymous call asking about priest's death

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Police will investigate an anonymous call which told of Father Roger Rinfret's death 14 hours before police discovered the parish priest was fatally stabbed 13 times in a Gatineau Motel room.

But police say they as yet know nothing about the man who described himself as "an intimate friend" of Rinfret when he telephoned the newsroom at Ottawa's French-language daily, *Le Droit*, "sometime around 10 p.m." Sunday looking for details on the death.

Rinfret, 49, parish priest in Angers, was seen alive at 10:30 p.m. Sunday, but forensic tests pinpointing the exact time of death have not yet been released.

His fully-clothed, blood-soaked body was not discovered until noon Monday by a cleaning lady at the Ritz Motel on Greber Boulevard.

"We have no motive and no sus-

pects," said Gatineau police spokesman Michel Lafrance. "If that call came Sunday night, we have to presume the caller was the killer, or someone who knew Rinfret was killed."

Members of the newsroom staff at *Le Droit* say there is "no mistake" that the call came Sunday night, because the receptionist who took it did not work on Monday.

The receptionist was alone in the newsroom when the call came, and she did not mention it to anyone until after midnight Monday when she heard of Rinfret's murder.

Gatineau police have ruled out theft as a possible motive in the brutal slaying. Lafrance said Rinfret's money and wallet were intact in his pocket. An autopsy showed the priest was stabbed 13 times; nine times in the chest, two in the back, and two in the throat.

Rinfret, a popular figure in the tiny parish of Angers, worked with youth and handicapped groups. He

checked in alone to room 10 at the Ritz, only 12 miles from his old, stone parish home, at 10:30 p.m. Sunday.

He left friends just about 10 p.m., after having a private dinner with the family of his lawyer, Jules Barriere, in Aylmer.

The receptionist told her co-workers the caller "wanted to know if we had any details about Father Rinfret's death" and said he would call back, but never did.

She said the man told her he had heard about Rinfret's death "from the Father's lawyer" and Barriere said he suspected the caller may have watched Rinfret's comings and goings before the murder.

Barriere last night said he was "just shocked" by the call, and could not understand how the caller would have mentioned him in connection with Rinfret's death.

"It appears the caller had been watching Father Rinfret and knew he was having dinner with us," said Barriere.