

# Records: Priest attended man

**Court • Officials knew of allegations but still gave him access to children.**

By **THEO EMERY**  
The Associated Press

## BOSTON

The Archdiocese of Boston knew one of its priests spoke in favor of sex between men and boys at a 1979 meeting that apparently led to the founding of a national group advocating the practice, according to documents released Monday by the attorney of a man who accuses the priest of rape.

The documents show archdiocese officials knew of sexual misconduct allegations against the Rev. Paul Shanley since at least 1967, but continued to allow him access to children in different parishes for three decades.



**GREGORY FORD**, alleged to be an abuse victim, is hugged by a woman who identified herself as Sister Marie • Photo: AP

The papers also show that the officials had been told as early as 1977 about Shanley's teachings on sex between men and boys.

"All of the suffering that has taken place at the hands of Paul Shanley, a serial child

molester for four decades - three of them in Boston - none of it had to happen," said Roderick MacLeish, an attorney for the family of alleged abuse victim Gregory Ford.

Ford, 24, alleges in a lawsuit filed this year that he was re-

# ...est attended man-boy love meeting



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Ford, 24, alleges in a lawsuit  
filed this year that he was re-

peatedly raped by Shanley in  
the 1980s. The suit also al-  
leges Cardinal Bernard Law  
allowed the priest to remain  
as pastor at St. John the Evan-  
gelist Parish in Newton until  
1989, despite knowledge of  
his behavior.

Shanley, 71, did not return a  
call for comment Monday. He  
has not been criminally  
charged. Shanley has lived for  
the past two years in the San  
Diego area, and remains a  
priest but has no parish.

Shanley was ordained in  
1960 and became well known  
as a "street priest" over the  
next two decades. He estab-  
lished a ministry for run-  
aways, drug abusers, drifters  
and teen-agers struggling  
with sexual identity.

MacLeish showed report-  
ers some of the 818 church re-  
cords turned over to Ford un-  
der court order.

One document is a copy of  
a Feb. 12, 1979, issue of a pub-  
lication called GaysWeek that

included an article titled  
"Men & Boys."

The article described a  
meeting of 150 people in Bos-  
ton on the topic of man-boy  
love.

It said many speakers rep-  
resenting various religions  
endorsed such relationships -  
including Shanley, who was  
there as a representative of  
then-Cardinal Humberto Me-  
deiros' program for outreach  
to sexual minorities.

Thirty-two men and two  
teen-agers apparently formed  
the North American Man Boy  
Love Association at the end of  
the conference. There was no  
indication in the article that  
Shanley was among them.

Shanley moved to Califor-  
nia and joined the San Bernar-  
dino Diocese in 1990 after a  
medical leave from Boston.  
He served at St. Anne Cathol-  
ic Church in San Bernardino  
for three years without re-  
striction on his contact with  
children.