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Sponsors Testify Against Priest

WINCHESTER, Tenn. (AP) — Another sponsor of Boys Farm Inc. testified today the Rev. Claudius I. Vermilye invited him to Tennessee to have sex with young boys in his care.

Raymond Davies of Plantation City, Fla., testified that the Episcopal priest invited him to visit the Alto facility and lodged him in a room with Danny Smith, with whom he had sexual relations.

Davies said the priest was not present, but that he told him of the sexual activity the following day. "He said anything Danny wanted to do was all right with him," said Davies.

Two other sponsors — Brian Ball of Gatlinburg, Tenn., and Jay Kirkpatrick of Nebraska, testified earlier today they contributed money to Boys Farm and had received pornography in return. Neither had visited the facility.

The Rev. Mr. Vermilye is charged with 10 counts of committing crimes against nature or aiding and abetting such crimes by filming them. Each count is a felony, carrying a 5-to-15-year prison sentence.

Two sponsors of Boys Farm Inc., the home run by the Rev. Mr. Vermilye, testified Wednesday that the priest invited them to come to Tennessee for sex at the home.

Bruce Dunlap, a 35-year-old DuPont employe from Wilmington, Del., testified that Father Vermilye was in the room while he (Dunlap) performed homosexual sex acts with a resident of the farm, and that at one point the priest participated.

Another sponsor, James Schindler of Detroit, Mich., told the circuit court jury of 10 men and two women that he came to Boys Farm last October and committed unnatural sex acts with the same boy.

The Rev. Mr. Vermilye stared intently at the witness during the testimony, jotting notes for his attorneys. A number of small children were among the spectators listening intently.

Schindler also testified that he photographed several residents of the facility committing acts of sodomy and fellatio on each other.

Asked by prosecutors whether the Rev. Mr. Vermilye had encouraged the picture-taking, Schindler replied: "Well, he helped pose some of them."

A 15-year-old former Boys Farm resident, Tommie Fly, testified that Father Vermilye had persuaded him to pose naked for pictures and commit homosexual sex acts.