

B8 | WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2004 | THE COURIER-JOURNAL

METRO | courier-journal.com

## Four more women sue Sisters of Charity

### Sex-abuse claims name priest, nun

By Peter Smith  
psmith@courier-journal.com  
The Courier-Journal

A lawsuit against a local order of Roman Catholic nuns grew again yesterday when four women accused the order of failing to protect them as children from sexual abuse by a priest and a nun.

All four of the women said they lived at an Anchorage orphanage operated by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in the 1950s and 1960s. They

alleged that Monsignor Herman J. Lammers sexually abused them in episodes ranging from fondling to forced intercourse.

One of the women also accuses a nun, identified only as "Sister Joseph Michael," of performing oral sex on her.

The lawsuit said the Sisters of Charity failed to properly supervise Lammers and nuns working at the St. Thomas-St. Vincent Orphanage, which closed in 1983.

Lammers, who died in 1986, was resident chaplain at the orphanage for decades and was also the longtime director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Louis-

ville, which owned the orphanage.

Seventeen women have already accused him this month of sexual abuse — one in a separate lawsuit and the rest in a steadily growing lawsuit first filed July 15 in Jefferson Circuit Court.

The plaintiffs have also accused several nuns of abuse at the orphanage and at Catholic schools.

The plaintiffs suing yesterday are Cynthia Sadler, Gail Miller, Veronica Aubrey and Theresa Elzy.

Sadler, the plaintiff who is accusing both Lammers and Sister Joseph Michael, and Miller are biological sisters.

Aubrey, Elzy and an earlier plaintiff, Monica Aubrey, are also sisters, according to the office of attorney William McMurry, who represents most of the plaintiffs.

Five biological sisters from another family are among the original plaintiffs.

The Sisters of Charity, based outside Bardstown, said yesterday that they are looking into the accusations. The order confirmed that a Sister Joseph Michael worked at the orphanage in the 1960s and died in 1977.

The order includes about 450 nuns working in the United States and about 200 more in other countries.

## CJ 2004 Orphanage more women sue

Clipped By:



bill9917

Sat, Jan 4, 2020