

# Seven file lawsuit alleging abuse by priest, two nuns

Claims focused on local order of nuns

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Seven people sued a local order of Roman Catholic nuns yesterday, alleging sexual abuse by a priest and two nuns at an Anchorage orphanage run by the order in the 1950s and 1960s.

The lawsuit names the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth as the defendant and alleges abuse at the St. Thomas-St. Vincent Orphanage, which closed in 1983.

The plaintiffs include five biological sisters who say they were sexually molested by Monsignor Herman J. Lammers, a resident chaplain at the home. One sister also says a nun, Sister Mary Ann Powers, abused her.

A sixth, unrelated plaintiff also names Lammers, while a seventh accuses another nun, Sister Mary Alma Stuecker, of

sexual abuse.

Lammers previously was accused in two lawsuits against the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville in 2002 that later were settled.

Barbara Qualls, spokeswoman for the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, based in Bardstown, Ky., said she could not comment on pending litigation.

Lawsuits give only one side of a case and are not evidence of wrongdoing.

Other than the previous lawsuits naming Lammers, Qualls said the order was unaware of any allegations of sexual abuse at the orphanage or by the three people named in the suit, which was filed in Jefferson Circuit Court.

Qualls confirmed that all three named in the suit worked at the orphanage and since have died.

The five plaintiffs who are sisters accused Lammers of actions ranging from fondling to forced intercourse.

Helen Martine Edwards said

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