REV. GERALD PLESETZ

DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES 2013
PURSUANT TO JCCP 4286 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
**Rev Gerald Plesetz**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Current Primary Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth Date</td>
<td>12/12/1942</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birth Place</td>
<td>Sheboygan, Wisconsin, USA</td>
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<td>Diocese Name</td>
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<td>Canon State</td>
<td>Incard Process</td>
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<td>Begin Pension Date</td>
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**Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training**

- Date Background Check
- Virtus Training Date

**Assignment History**
Fr. Gerald Plesetz

Draft dates from Victims & files

May 1970
Ordained in Los Angeles (verified in '72 directory)

First assignment – St. Rose of Lima no verification ?

May 71-72
St. Rose of Lima, Maywood (verified in L.A. / Orange Directory)

March 2, 1972
St. Edward's Parish, Dana Point \textit{REDACTED} – Victim says)

1972-76
St. Edward’s (L.A./Orange Directory)

\textit{REDACTED} 1975
Birth of child – \textit{REDACTED} ... (age 16) and Plesetz (age 32) in San Diego Child put up for adoption. Plesetz signs adoption papers. Verified by \textit{REDACTED}

“Retreat 1975”
Parish told “Fr. Plesetz is on Retreat”. Victim says he had a breakdown and “was hospitalized after the birth of the child” (victim \textit{REDACTED}). \textit{REDACTED} continues studies at Mater Dei and graduates from there.

March 29, 1976
Letter to Pastor informing of Fr. Plesetz assigned to St. Bridget, Van Nuys from St. Edward’s, Dana Point effective May 1, 1976

May 1, 1976
Fr. Plesetz assignment effective at St Bridget of Sweden, Van Nuys (about 10 weeks at St. Bridget’s 5/1/76 - 7/12/76)

June 23, 1976
Request granted to Plesetz to be changed to Orange Diocese “excardination documented”. Effective 7/12/76 (Document – letter 6/23/76 to Plesetz)

July 12, 1976
Priest of New Diocese of Orange

July 1976
St. Cecilia’s Tustin (Exact dates - Need to be verified)

1977
Leave of absence (Needs to be verified)

\textit{REDACTED} 1977
Marriage to \textit{REDACTED}. Verified Marriage License

May 4, 1978
\textit{REDACTED} \textit{REDACTED}

June 16, 1978
Laicized documented

\textbf{Other data:}
July 3, 1974
Police report made by \textit{REDACTED} in Orange County July 2002 regarding her minor victimization at age 15/16. “Gerry gave a full

\textit{REDACTED} 35689

XV 000001
confession to the police. He apologized to me. He lied bold face to me. He had no rehab. Mom thinks they knew (Diocese of Orange).” Her parents knew and took her to San Diego to have the baby. She said that she insisted that her parents let her finish school at Mater Dei.

“Priest”

In St. Matthew’s Ecumenical Catholic Church listed on internet. Length of time there unknown.

Gerry Plesetz

County of Orange works in Health Services, as Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Fr. Gerald Plesetz does marriages at St. Matthew’s Ecumenical Catholic Church. First wife died when child was 5 years old. Daughter, now 18 years old. Divorced second and third wives.

Kenedy Directory

Listings apply to previous year 1977 page 623; 1978 page 629 listed “inactive”; 1979 not listed.

Request:

requested a letter to St. Matthew’s Ecumenical Church regarding his vicimization of women. 7/9/02 requested & sent

REDACTED

REDACTED
Excellentissime Domine,

Dnus GERALDUS JOHANNES PLESETZ, sacerdos dioecesis Arausianae in California

petiti reductionem ad statum laicalem cum dispensatione ab omnibus oneribus e sacris Ordinibus (et a religiosa Professione) manantibus, non excepto onere servandis legem sacri coelibatus.

SS.mus D. N. PAULUS, Divina Providentia Papa VI,
die 16 Iunii 1978

habet relatione de casu a Sacra Congregatione Pro Doctrina Fidei, adnuere dignatus est pro gratia luxta sequentes Normas:

1. Rescriptum complectitur inseparabili reductionem ad statum laicalem et dispensacionem ab oneribus ex sacris Ordinibus manantibus. Numquam orator fac est duo illa clementa seiuengere, seu alterum accipere et prius recusare. Si orator est religiosus, Rescriptum continet etiam dispensationem a voto.

   Ipsum insuper, quatenus opus sit, secumfert absolutionem a contractis censuris et legitimationem prolis.

   Rescriptum vim suam exserit a momento notificationis a competenti Praelato oratori factae.

2. Si orator est sacerdos dioecesanus extra propriam dioecesim versans, vel religiosus, Ordinarius loci incardinationis vel Superior religiosus maior Ordinarii loci commorations habitualis oratoris certiorum faciet de pontificia dispensacione, eurnque, si casus ferat, roga-bit ut Rescriptum cum oratore communicet et necessariam delegationem pro matrimonii canonici celebratione concedat. Si vero peculiares circumstantiae alid suadeant, praedictus Ordinarius ad Sacram Congregationem recurrat.

3. Per se sacerdos ad statum laicalem redactus et ab oneribus cum sacerdotio conexis dispensatus, et a fortiori sacerdos matrimonio iunctus, abesse debet a locis in quibus notus est eius status sacerdotalis. Ordinarius loci commorations oratoris, de communi consilio, quatenus sit, cum Ordinario proprio incardinationis vel cum Superiore
maiore religioso, dispensare poterit ab ista clausula Rescriptum affi-
ciente, si oratoris dispensati praesentia scandalum paritura non pra-
videtur.

4. Quod attinet ad celebrationem canonici matrimonii, per se Ordin-
arius curae ut a quacumque pompa vel adparatu abstineatur et coram 
sacerdote probato ac sine testibus vel, si opus fuerit, cum duobus testi-
bus, illud peragatur, cujus acta in secreto Curiae tabulario adserverunt.

Ad Ordinarium locii consorcionis una cum Praelato proprio orato-
ris, sive dioecesano sive religioso, pertinet determinare quomodo dispen-
satio, et pariter celebratio matrimonii, secreto sit tenda vel commun-
icari possit, debitis sub cautionibus, cum oratoris propinquus, amicus 
et conductoribus (datore di lavoro, employeur, employer), ut bonae 
formulae ipsius oratoris consultum sit iuribusque oeconomico-socialibus 
ex novo statu laici et uxorati manantibus.

5. In Libris baptizerum paroeciae sive oratoris sive compartis adno-
tetur consulendum esse Ordinarium loci si quando notitia vel docu-
menta exquirantur.

6. Ordinarius, ad quem spectat Rescriptum cum oratore communi-
care, hunc enixe hortetur, ut vitam Populi Dei, ratione congruente cum 
nova eius vivendi condizione, participet, aedificationem praestet, et ita 
amantissimum Ecclesiae filium se exhibeat. Simul autem eidem notum 
faciat cuiuslibet sacerdotis ad statum laicalem redacto et ab oneribus 
dispensato vetitum esse ne:

   a) ullam ordinis sacri functionem peragat, salvis iis quae habentur 
can. 882 et 892 par. 2;
   b) ullam partem liturgicam agat in celebrationibus cum populo, 
ubi eius condicio est nota, neve unquam homiliam habeat;
   c) ullam officium pastorale gerat;
   d) munere Rectoris (vel alio munere directivo), Directoris spiritualis 
et Docentis fungatur in Seminariis, Facultatibus Theologicis et 
similibus Institutis;
   e) itemque ne munere Directoris scholae catholicae neve munere 
   magistri religiosi in quibuslibet scholis, catholicens aut secus, fungatur.

Attamen Ordinarium loci, pro suo prudenti iudicio, potest in casibus par-
ticularibus permettere ut sacerdos, ad statum laicalem redactus et ab 
oneribus cum sacra ordinatione conexis dispensatus, religionem doceat 
in scholis publicis, ex exceptione etiam in scholis catholicens, dummodo 
ne scandalum aut admiratio sit timendum.

Denique Ordinarium ei aliquod opus pietaetis vel caritatis imponat. 
Tempore autem opportuno curet brevius referre ad Sacram Congregatio-
em de peracta executione, et si qua tandem fidelli admiratio exo-
niatur, prudenti explicatione providere.

Contrariis quibuscumque minime obstantibus.

Ex Aedibus S. C. Pro Doctrina Fidei, die 16 Iunii 1978.

[Signature]

35696
I, Gerald T. Plesetz, a priest of the Diocese of Orange, California, having been dispensed from all the obligations of Sacred Orders including celibacy, hereby accept the conditions laid down by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in its rescript Prot. N. 2547/75, granted June 11, 1975, namely:

1. To participate in the life of the People of God in a manner consistent with my new life style and to lead an exemplary and edifying life as a loyal son of the Church;

2. Not to perform any functions whatsoever of Holy Orders (with the exception of the administration of the Sacrament of Penance in danger of death, as provided in Canonons 882 and 892, p. 2, Code of Canon Law);

3) Not to conduct any liturgical services whatsoever in the presence of the people, in places where my condition is known;

4) In no circumstances to preach;

5) Not to carry out pastoral duties;

6) Not to hold postions of administration, spiritual direction, or teaching in seminaries, theological faculties or similar institutions;

7) Not to be a principal of a Catholic school and not to teach religion in any school, Catholic or non-Catholic. In a particular situation, in which there will be no scandal or disedification, I will first consult the local Ordinany;

8) To remain away from places where my priestly state is known, unless the local Ordinary grants a dispensation;

9) To observe the directives of the local Ordinary concerning the secrecy or divulging of the dispensation and the celebration of marriage.

given at, Orange, Calif., on July 5, 1978.

Gerald T. Plesetz

REDACTED
The document contains a marriage certificate with various personal details redacted. The certificate includes information such as the names of the bride and groom, their birthplaces, occupations, and graduation years. The certificate also includes dates for the marriage and the issuance of the marriage license. The document is in Latin and English, with some portions of the English text being redacted. The Latin text appears to be a legal declaration or formal statement. The document includes a certification section with a signature and a register number.
Clergy Misconduct

Adult Sexual Abuse

Case: / Plesetz
Two cases for Perpetrator

Survivor-victim: REDACTED

Counselee: Age 24 time of incidents of violation

Pastor Counselor: Fr. Gerald Plesetz
St. Edward’s Parish
Dana Point, CA

REDACTED

She is aware that REDACTED has reported her story of being 16 years old and having a child by Gerald Plesetz. REDACTED is living in REDACTED CA. The other woman is living in REDACTED.

In 1978, said that she was seeing Fr. Plesetz for counseling. She said that she went to see him for counseling because she was vulnerable at the time. She said that it was not rape because it was not violent.

REDACTED was aware there was another woman victimized by Gerry Plesetz. She did not mention talking with the other woman. We know that REDACTED; daughter has made contact with REDACTED in search of her half sister. The communication as reported by REDACTED had been positive. See case of REDACTED /Plesetz.

REDACTED said that she was aware of the following timeline. “Fr. Plesetz was At St. Edward’s in Dana Point, CA 1974. He had a leave of absence in 1977. That he had gone to St. Elizabeth’s in Van Nuys and returned to Orange County. He had been assigned to St. Cecilia’s in Tustin. He had left and married. REDACTED

REDACTED He is a Catholic and is a lay priest in Orange County Diocese.”

REDACTED said that “I am not seeking to hurt the 18 year old daughter of Gerry Plesetz. I am not revengeful.”
REDACTED offered counseling for REDACTED and her daughter. Did not differentiate which Diocese may be responsible or what is known of Fr. Plesetz history. Msgr. Cox is aware and will communicate with Orange Diocese, Msgr. Urell.
Clergy Misconduct

Suspected Child Abuse

Survivor-victim: REDACTED

e-mail: 
Phone: 

Perpetrator: Fr. Gerald Plesezt Ordained 1970
Currently married

A child was Born to a 16 year old girl
Fr. Plesezt signed adoption papers in San Diego for his
daughter under similar spelling pseudonym.

Reported: REDACTED recently made a report to the Seattle Police.

In April 2002, we received a phone call from a REDACTED. She said she had been encouraged
by a seminarian, REDACTED, who was studying in Chicago to make a report to the
Archdiocese of Los Angeles. She would not give her full name or phone number saying
she wasn’t sure she wanted to make a full report. She said that she was calling from out
of State. She said that Fr. Gerald Plesezt was the father of her daughter. She had been a
student in a Catholic High School when she became pregnant. At the time of her call she
was unwilling to call a detective to report this criminal act.

On June 4, 2002, REDACTED gave her name as REDACTED : who had called before. She gave
her full story, REDACTED: was a 16 year old girl studying at Mater Dei High School and a
parishioner at St. Edward’s in Dana Point, CA. She became pregnant in approximately
October 1974. She said Fr. Plesezt gave her a Doctor’s name and offered to take her to the
Doctor. Her daughter, REDACTED: was born on REDACTED. REDACTED: said that her parents
protected the priest while she was a student at Mater Dei Catholic High School. REDACTED:
said the counselors at school asked her several times if everything was alright. Her older
sister was a REDACTED at Mater Dei and she wonders if they also asked her questions. Her
parents had taken her to the Community Health Center because they knew they was going
to do an adoption. Her parents took her to Catholic Community Service in San Diego to
give birth to the child and because she was 16 years old at the time she gave the child up
for adoption. REDACTED: thinks that Fr. Plesezt was about 32 years old at that time. Fr. Plesezt
signed the adoption papers she said with a variation on the spelling of his last name.
They named the child REDACTED. She has had no contact with REDACTED since birth.
is fearful that she might lose her job teaching in a Catholic School. I said that she was a minor and not responsible. Fr. Plesetz was in a position of power and trust and betrayed you. She has been in therapy since she was 18 years old.

Dr. REDACTED research (June 5, 2002) regarding Fr. Gerald Plesetz is as follows: reported that Fr. Plesetz had left ministry and married. Dr. REDACTED contacted Catholic Charities in San Diego contact person REDACTED... REDACTED was away. REDACTED had asked for some help with the record of the adoption. Los Angeles Archdiocese did not have Plesetz file but Dr. REDACTED did find Fr. Pletz in the Diocesan Directory for 1976 at St. Edward’s in Dana Point, CA in 1974–76.

On June 17, 2002, a second victim called to report paternity by Fr. Gerry Plesetz. Her daughter is REDACTED. Her story is in a separate report. REDACTED was born in 1978. REDACTED Mother was receiving counseling at St. Edward’s from Fr. Plesetz at the time of conception. She was 24 when REDACTED was born.

It has been reported by REDACTED that Mr. Gerry Plesetz, MFCC is currently a licensed Marriage Child and Family Counselor working at the Orange County Health Services. He is an alcohol and Drug Counselor. It is believed that he is an active Catholic and belongs to some group of former priests. REDACTED and her Mother live in Orange County.

Assistance Ministry
June 17, 2002
June 19, 2002

Reverend Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010-2241

Dear Monsignor Cox,

I am responding to your phone call yesterday regarding the status of (Rev) Gerald Plesetz.

I am enclosing a copy of the rescript granted for his laicization (dated June 16, 1978), which was officially accepted by him on July 5, 1978 (copy also included).

Regarding his personnel file, there is no trace of one to be found. REDACTED secretaries have been looking, to no avail. The rescripts from all laicization cases are kept in the Office of Canonical Services (hence, the copies are available). We even contacted (REDACTED) former Judicial Vicar, to whom all of the laicization cases were given some time ago, and he seems to remember that the Diocese of Orange did not have Gerald Plesetz’s personnel file, but rather it was in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (because all of this happened so soon after the Diocese of Orange was established on June 18, 1976). (Note the Prot.N. on the rescript 2542/77). The official Kennedy Directory has Gerald Plesetz listed at St. Cecilia Parish, Tustin, in the 1977 edition (for the year 1976); in the 1978 edition (for the year 1977), he is listed as “inactive leave”. He is not listed in the 1979 edition.

Lastly, though, the rescript is signed by Msgr. Harry Trower, who was the Vicar General for the Diocese of Orange in 1978.

This is all we have. I hope it is of some help to you. Kindly let me know if there is more that is needed in REDACTED absence.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Reverend Monsignor John Urell, V.G.
Vicar General / Moderator of the Curia

C: Maria Schinderle, Diocese of Orange

enclosure
June 22, 2002

Monsignor John Urell
Diocese of Orange
P.O. Box 14195
Orange, CA 92867

Dear Monsignor Urell:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 19, 2002, enclosing the copies of the rescript of laicization granted to Gerald J. Plesetz. I will check with REDACTED to see if we have his personnel file in our archives.

Enclosed for your records are copies of two reports taken by REDACTED concerning allegations of sexual misconduct by Gerald Plesetz. As you can see, the first report (REDACTED) alleges sexual misconduct with a minor in 1974 – 1975 before the formation of the Diocese of Orange. The second report (REDACTED) involves sexual misconduct with an adult, apparently in 1977 – 1978, after the formation of the Diocese of Orange and right at the time that then Father Plesetz was leaving the active ministry.

REDACTED has offered counseling and pastoral outreach to REDACTED. We will continue to assume responsibility for appropriate care for her. REDACTED made an initial offer of counseling to REDACTED. Since it appears that this particular incident of misconduct may have occurred after the Diocese of Orange was founded, would you please have REDACTED contact REDACTED. Between them they can discuss continued pastoral outreach to REDACTED.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. May God continue to bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.Q.D.
Vicar for Clergy

enclosures

cc REDACTED | REDACTED

Pastoral Regions: Our Lady of the Angels  San Fernando  San Gabriel  San Pedro  Santa Barbara
OFFICE OF THE VICAR FOR CLERGY

TO: REDACTED
REDACTED
REDACTED

FROM:

RE: Father Gerald J. Plesetz

DATE: July 8, 2002

Monsignor Cox is wondering if you would have the file of Father Gerald J. Plesetz. REDACTED requested his file from the Diocese of Orange, but Monsignor Urell notified him that they do not have it. They only had a copy of the rescript granted for his laicization (dated June 16, 1978), which was officially accepted by him on July 5, 1978.

In the 1977 edition of the Kenedy Directory, he was listed at Saint Cecilia Parish in Tustin. In the 1978, he was listed as "inactive leave."

Any information you would have regarding this priest would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

... REDACTED

1976 - St. Edwards, Dana Point

REDACTED - no file exists for this priest

35692
Sting Leads to Sex Abuse Charge Against Ex-Priest

Catholics: Orange man’s arrest is the first to result from molestation allegations in Southland.

By WILLIAM LOBDELL
and CHRISTINE HANLEY
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

Orange County authorities arrested a former Catholic priest Tuesday on suspicion of sexually abusing a teenage girl in the 1970s after the man allegedly confessed to an undercover deputy posing as his out-of-wedlock daughter.

Gerald John Plesetz, 59, of Orange is the first priest to be criminally charged with sexually abusing victims in Los Angeles or Orange counties since the Roman Catholic sex scandal broke nine months ago. Plesetz, who left the priesthood in the late 1970s and works as an administrator for the Orange County Health Care Agency, was charged with three counts of oral copulation with a minor under the age of 16. It’s unclear why prosecutors did not charge him with statutory rape; they accuse Plesetz in court documents of impregnating the girl.

Officials with the Orange County district attorney’s office said that in child abuse cases, the statute of limitations does not begin until the victim comes forward no matter how long ago the alleged crime occurred. Charges must be filed within a year of that date.

Plesetz’s arrest caps a four-month investigation into crimes authorities said occurred from 1972 to 1974, when Plesetz was a pastor at St. Edward Catholic Church in Dana Point.

It comes as advocates for victims of priest abuse criticize law enforcement for not filing criminal charges in most cases.

The alleged victim, identified in the criminal complaint as “Janet M.” first met the priest when she was a 13-year-old singer in the church choir.

Prosecutors charge that Plesetz repeatedly abused her—acts that ended when she became pregnant.

The priest met with the girl’s parents and arranged to pay all expenses related to the pregnancy, according to court records. The baby girl, Jennifer, was put up for adoption.

Authorities became aware of the incident in June, when Janet M.

Please see PRIEST, A28
PRIEST: Arrest Is 1st Locally in Scandal

Continued from A1
faced a complaint with the Orange County Sheriff's Department.
Jim Amormino, a sheriff's spokesman, said he didn't know why she decided to come forward.
"I don't know if she lived that long with anger or what had happened," he said.

Investigators set up a sting two weeks later.
It began July 1 when the woman called Plesetz and told him that the daughter she had given up for adoption 27 years ago wanted to meet him.
"You're kidding me—that's Jen, Jennifer?" said Plesetz in a secretly taped phone conversation detailed in the criminal complaint.
The next day, Plesetz met with Janet M. and an undercover sheriff's deputy posing as her daughter.
He had the woman and her daughter in the car, according to the complaint. Speaking to the deputy that he believed was his daughter, Plesetz described the mother as a "young woman who was going through something and was very aggressive. She was beautiful, talented and she knew what she wanted," according to court records.
On July 3, sheriff's investigators confronted Plesetz, and he confessed to the crimes, prosecutors said in court records.
But he was not arrested at that time. The case was temporarily shelved because of the high-profile July 15 kidnapping of 5-year-old Samantha Runnion, which diverted department resources. Detectives continued to build their case over the last two months and arrested Plesetz at his home Tuesday. He was being held late Tuesday at the Men's Central Jail in Santa Ana on $50,000 bail. He is scheduled to be arraigned Thursday.

Plesetz is the fifth priest from St. Edward Catholic Church to be accused of abusing minors over the last three decades. None of the other priests have been charged.
"We're shocked, saddened and heartbroken," said Bishop Ted D. Brown of the Diocese of Orange, after being told of the arrest. "Our hearts go out to the victim."
Advocates for victims of priest abuse described the arrest as a milestone. "I think when victims hear about this arrest it's going to give them hope," said Mary Grant, a Los Angeles-based director of Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests. "It's a long process for victims—hundreds have come forward. This is a sign that this is being taken seriously."

While the Catholic Church in Southern California and across the nation has paid out millions of dollars to abuse victims who filed civil lawsuits, criminal charges against priests remain relatively rare.

Hemmed in by statute of limitations laws, faded memories, little corroborating evidence and the power of the priesthood and Catholic Church, prosecutors have put few clerics in jail for sexually abusing minors.
Covertly recorded phone calls and meetings are an increasingly common device for gathering evidence in decades-old abuse cases where evidence is slim.

In Los Angeles, Catholic officials are bracing for possible indictments of 15 current and former priests on felony sex charges, according to law enforcement sources. In Orange County, a handful of priests are under criminal investigation.

Times staff writers Stuart Pfeiffer and Richard Wintert contributed to this report.
Accused Ex-Priest Reveals His Struggle

Crime: Facing sex abuse charges, the Orange man says: ‘I regret and have shame about this.’

By CHRISTINE HANLEY
and MONTE MORIN
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

A former priest charged with sexually abusing a teenage girl with whom he fathered a child nearly three decades ago expressed regret Thursday for what happened and said he’s praying for the woman.

In an interview a day after he was released from jail on $50,000 bail, Gerald J. Plesetz spoke candidly about his struggles in the Roman Catholic Church and his decision to give up the priesthood soon after the woman—identified by authorities as “Janet M.”—became pregnant.

“I regret and have shame about this,” Plesetz said. “I pray and sincerely hope that Janet isn’t scarred from this.”

Plesetz, 59, was arrested Tuesday on three counts of oral copulation with a minor under the age of 16.

Plesetz would not discuss specifics of the allegations against him, saying he has not yet talked to an attorney.

The closest Plesetz came to explaining his relationship with Janet M. was when he described how lonely it was working in South Orange County during the 1970s, when the alleged crimes occurred.

Gerald J. Plesetz was arrested on three counts of oral copulation with a minor under age 16.

He was assigned to St. Edward Catholic Church in Dana Point, where Janet M. sang in the choir. The area, he said, was far removed from the fellow priests he befriended through the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

“Dana Point was an outpost of the diocese. . . . You lose a sense of community and camaraderie with your fellow priests,” he said.

“I was in an isolated situation.”

Plesetz said he left the church because he wanted to have a family.

“I left once I was clear about what I wanted in my life,” he said. He married his wife, Sandy, a flight attendant, in December 1977.

The couple had a daughter in 1984. A year later, Sandy died of cancer. Plesetz has been a single father ever since.

With his second daughter, now 18, never straying far from his side during Thursday’s interview, Plesetz said he’s tried to be honest with everyone close to him about his first daughter. The girl was given up for adoption and, according to Plesetz, has been receiving child support payments from him over the years.

“A few I ever got close to know,” he said. “It would not be fair for them not to know.”

But the bishop of a church where Plesetz served as a part-time priest said Thursday he was shocked when he heard the allegations this summer.

Plesetz served at St. Matthew Church in Orange from 1997 until July of this year, according to Bishop Peter Hickman. St. Matthew Church is affiliated with the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles and allows priests to marry.

Hickman received a letter in July from the Los Angeles Archdiocese reporting allegations of misconduct against Plesetz.

Hickman said he met with Plesetz and another priest on July 16 and confronted him with the accusations.

“He said it was true and he apologized for not telling us before,” Hickman said.

“He said he had carried this for the last 27 or 28 years and that he had always regretted it. He feels he was very immature at the time and that it was a very foolish and very terrible thing that he did. It happened when he was newly ordained.”

Plesetz said he plans to return to his job as an administrator with the Orange County Health Care Agency next week. He took the job in 1996 because it allowed him to help people—“as a priest would—while being allowed to have a family.”

“At his home in Orange on Thursday, he tried to relax by strumming his guitar and—in what he called a symbolic gesture—listening to Bob Dylan sing ‘I Shall Be Released’.”
REDACTED

- PLEASE COPY & MAIL.
- PLEASE CIRCULATE & FILE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

THANKS. [REDACTED]