

PRIEST SUSPENDED AFTER UNION BID

Plans Appeal to Pope and, If Necessary, to Courts

By PETER BART

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25 — The Rev. William H. DuBay, the 31-year-old Catholic priest who announced plans earlier this week to unionize the nation's priests, was suspended today by James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles.

Father DuBay revealed the suspension at a press conference. The slim, scholarly looking priest said he would attempt to fight the suspension through an ecclesiastical trial and, if that failed, through civil courts.

Father DuBay has clashed with the chancery over his proposed union of priests and also over his criticism of Cardinal McIntyre's policies on racial issues.

The priest last year wrote the Vatican demanding Cardinal McIntyre's ouster on the grounds that he had failed to provide leadership during the "racial crisis" in Los Angeles.

Speaking calmly and choosing his words carefully, Father DuBay said today that the suspension meant he could not function as a priest within Cardinal McIntyre's archdiocese.

Technically, he said, he could seek a post in another part of the country but he said he doubted whether another Bishop would care to hire "a priest who is also a labor union organizer."

Father DuBay said he was summoned yesterday afternoon to the chancery, where Cardinal McIntyre gave him a choice between suspension and submission to four provisions.

He said the provisions were that he no longer oppose the policies of the archdiocese, that he not speak in public, that he submit all writings in advance to the chancery office, and that

he leave the archdiocese for a retreat of indefinite duration.

After thinking over the alternatives the priest returned to Cardinal McIntyre today and told him that his conscience would not permit him to "hide behind the skirts of Mother Church" and he therefore chose suspension.

"I informed the chancery that I believed submission to prior censorship and silencing would be fundamentally immoral and an abdication of a priest's responsibility to be honest even when threatened," he said.

During the next few weeks the priest said he would work with several lawyers preparing his case. He will move early next week from the rectory in Santa Monica to Synanon House, an institution in Santa Monica that works with drug addicts and attempts to end their addiction through group therapy.

Until Wednesday, when he was relieved of his duties, Father DuBay was chaplain of St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica.

Father DuBay, who has been transferred five times in the five years since he was ordained, said he would like to study Synanon's techniques.

Despite the suspension the young priest said that he would continue his work to organize a labor union of priests.

Joined Socialist Party

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25 (UPI) — Father DuBay disclosed today that he became a member of the Socialist party about three months ago. He said he had been impressed by its ideas for political reform, particularly as expressed by Eric Fromm, the writer, and Norman Thomas, the former Presidential candidate.

Penalty for "Irreverence"

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25 (AP) — The archdiocese confirmed Father DuBay's suspension and said the action had been taken because of his "irreverence and disobedience" and because he was "unwilling to conform his conduct in accordance with suggestions" from Cardinal McIntyre.