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Local News

Priest gets 8 years in sexual abuse case

ST. CHARLES -- A Catholic priest who has served Rockford and Belvidere parishes was sentenced to eight years in prison Thursday for sexually abusing two minor girls.

Mark Campobello, 39, originally was charged with 18 counts of criminal sexual abuse and assault after two Kane County women told authorities he touched them indecently in the years 1999 and 2000, when the two were teens. Campobello this week reached a plea agreement with Kane County in which he pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

He was sentenced to four years on each of the Class 2 felony counts by Kane County Judge Timothy Sheldon. The sentences are to be served consecutively.

Campobello must turn himself into the Kane County sheriff on May 28. He then will be transferred to the Illinois Department of Corrections, which will decide where he will serve his sentence.

His attorney, Paul Gaziano of Rockford, said the least time Campobello could serve is about 42 months. Campobello also will have to register on the Illinois list of sexual offenders.