

Bishop apologizes to Rochester parishioners

The Winona Daily News (Winona MN) April 27, 1993

Bishop John G. Vlazny apologized to parishioners at St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Rochester, Minn., where pornographic materials were discovered in the rectory last winter, according to Monday's Rochester Post-Bulletin.

Vlazny conducted both services in the Simpson church Sunday in place of the present parish priest, the **Rev. Mark Santo**, who is on vacation.

Santo's house guest, Carl Myrick, was charged with one count of possession of child pornography after sheriff's deputies seized pornographic materials and video tapes from the rectory in December.

Vlazny acknowledged a petition that was signed by nearly 100 parishioners requesting **Santo** be

removed before his term expires in May. The petition also questioned Vlazny's judgment and investigation of the situation, among other things.

Vlazny said he was sorry for the hurt and embarrassment caused by the situation.

He also said that he probably should have come to St. Bridget's sooner, but he had thought that the controversy had been settled after the investigation and several meetings with parishioners in December.

Vlazny said he felt this visit accomplished as much as it could.

He did not rule out the possibility of **Santo** leaving the parish before his term expires, but said he needed to consult with **Santo** before making that decision.