

# Scallen found guilty . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

ordered the teenage nuns living at the religious retreat to strip in front of him as penance for sin was a highlight of Scallen's eight hours on the stand.

He began last Monday afternoon by telling the court about his life leading up to the time he decided to devote himself to religion and on Wednesday and Thursday gave details of his life as first Brother Dan and later Father Benedict.

During the first week of his trial three young women told of their life as nuns with Scallen and how he made them strip in front of him as penance.

Scallen denied this pointing the finger of blame at another former nun, 50 year-old divorcee, Anna Drozd of Brantford.

He claimed it was Mrs. Drozd who made the girls strip and also forced them to perform other "harsh" penances.

Scallen said he demoted Mrs. Drozd from "prioress" or Mother Superior after he found out what she was doing to the girls in her charge.

Mrs. Drozd performed secretarial duties following her demotion he said until March, 1976, when he told her she must leave the retreat.

Scallen testified he expelled her from the convent after she "propositioned" him.

A prosecution witness, Mrs. Drozd had earlier testified she asked repeatedly to be relieved of her duties as prioress because of "irregularities" in the way Scallen ran the convent.

She denied ordering the girls to strip and they supported her testimony. Mrs. Drozd also said she wasn't "spurred" by Father Benedict since she never approached him sexually.

When she left the monastery she said she went to Monroe Centre, Wisconsin, to report the irregularities to "Father Joseph", the man who ordained Scallen. She testified that while at the religious shrine in Wisconsin she saw the sun spin on its axis like a top and viewed clouds turning red and green.

Quotes canon law

Twice divorced, Scallen spent much of his time on the stand quoting canon law in his bid to show he believes he's a validly ordained Roman Catholic priest. He learned much about canon law while arranging the annulment of his first marriage to a war bride. The annulment came through in 1970.

He delved further into canon law while trying to decide if he should become a priest.

Scallen testified it was Bishop Joseph Rauber who said he should become a priest and told him he had all the qualifications. Rauber was ordained as a priest and bishop in the Syro-Antiochan Rite and is a member of the Old Catholic Church, a group of former Catholics who broke away from the church in the late 1800s.

He said he resisted Rauber's suggestions he should become a priest, pointing out that a person doesn't approach such a life lightly.

However with his second marriage and agricultural research project in a shambles he felt he should devote himself to religion and began by researching the changes in the Catholic church after Vatican II.

He testified he met many people who didn't like the new mass which was brought in to replace the old Latin mass and he found many supporters who opposed other changes in the Roman Catholic Church as well. At about the same time he joined with others in Brantford in fighting the introduction of mixed sex education classes in separate schools.

During the early stages of his religious studies following his divorce in 1972 Scallen started both the Marion Press and Marion Foundation. The Marion Press was a series of bulletins and newspapers he published and mailed out all over North America in which he discussed various issues in the Catholic Church. The Marion Foundation was to turn his Fifth Line property into a park and shrine to Catholicism.

He met Rauber when the man who eventually ordained Scallen took issue with his defence of the Pope in an issue of the Marion Press. Scallen said the changes in the church are the Bishops' fault and not the Pope's.

Scallen said while he knew Rauber was Old Catholic Church he learned through studying canon law the Bishop's authority was still good and his ordination by Rauber would be valid. His second, unannulled marriage

was no hindrance either since by divorcing him she had surrendered any claim.

While Rauber was persuasive, Scallen said he wanted more proof that he should become a priest. He sought the advice of Veronica Lueken, a visionary in Bayside, New York, who both he and his followers knew and believed.

Miraculous Picture Shows Way

Veronica informed him a miraculous picture of a statue of the Virgin Mary was taken with a Polaroid camera and it would contain the "divine" message.

There were three lights on the statue but in the picture only two showed. The third light was replaced by a brilliant host. The host was supposedly the sign that Scallen should become a priest.

This was the sign he was waiting for and after receiving the message from Veronica gave up his protests against ordination. On December 18, 1974, he was ordained deacon, sub-deacon, priest and abbot, by Rauber.

Since then he has agreed with the church that Veronica isn't authentic.

The fact he was ordained to so many posts in one day was very unusual, prosecution witness Most Rev. Paul Reding, bishop of Hamilton diocese, and Father Harvey Roach said earlier in the trial, while testifying Scallen wasn't a Roman Catholic priest.

Ordained abbot

Father Benedict as his parishioners and nuns knew him, told the court he was ordained an abbot at Rauber's suggestion since they both knew there would be opposition to his ordination by the local bishop and as an abbot he wouldn't be under the jurisdiction of the bishop. He said he had jurisdiction over all who went to him and said he could even ordain Owen.

The convent

He built a chapel in the retreat and began masses with as many as 40 people.

Later he, Mrs. Drozd and Betty Van Gerwen, another nun, who did not testify, were joined by Theresa MacDonald, the teenage daughter of one of his parishioners and niece of a couple who gave him \$800 to help pay taxes and other bills for the retreat. The court was told Scallen posted bills in the church for all to see.

The MacDonald girl, who is now married, was later joined by her sister and an Oakville girl, Paty Kennedy, whose parents gave him \$3,200.

Both the nuns and their parents told the court during the first week of the trial that they believed Scallen was a Roman Catholic priest and wouldn't have given money or become involved with him had they thought otherwise. The girls claimed they couldn't leave the retreat once they got there but he countered the girls were sent to him with their parents' permission and could leave. The nuns took vows and at

the height of activity at his monastery there were five nuns and one brother. A Sister Mary and a Brother Joseph still live at the retreat with Scallen.

Was moving

Not long before the June 1977 police raid on the retreat Scallen said he and his community were planning to leave Halton Hills. He said his supporters were going to purchase 400 acres near Kingston and had gone to the local Bishop and received no opposition to their plans. He wanted the Benedictines of Mary Immaculate to relocate since there was traffic on the road all day, men stopping and bothering the nuns while they were outside and no privacy because his convent was on the Bruce Trail.

After the raid he and the community moved to Brantford and when Scallen refused to join the others in dissolving the retreat, the McDonalds seized many of his religious articles and sent him back to Limehouse, he claimed.

Marilyn and Jimmy

His "miraculous" pictures got him into hot water under cross-examination and the memories of long dead movie star Marilyn Monroe and former United States teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa were raised at the trial.

Scallen took pictures with a Polaroid camera and reading religious messages into them earlier witnesses had testified. The nuns said Scallen told them pictures he showed them meant if they didn't become nuns they would "go to hell" and be raped when they returned home.

Owen showed Scallen a number of pictures he or the nuns had taken pointing to various notations he had made on them.

Scallen admitted he wrote "a likeness of Marilyn Monroe" on one of the pictures. He said the face of the famous actress appeared in the flowers around the altar in his church in the photograph.

Another showed two people with a white ball between them but he wouldn't say any of the pictures were "miraculous" although they might be.

He said the nuns had lied about the pictures and denied having made interpretations of what the various photographic oddities meant. Scallen did admit he had taken photographs which showed things as "impenetrable as flying saucers". While still discussing miraculous pictures with Owen, Scallen said he had interpreted an image in a picture sent to him by Veronica and this led to talks with both the OPP and FBI regarding the disappearance of Hoffa.

Trick pictures

He told Owen he bought old film because it was cheaper and not because it would play tricks.

Later in the trial a Halton policeman, who is a hobby photographer, showed a number of pictures to the

(Continued on Page 14)



SISTER MARY JOHN in prayer at the front of the Benedictines of Mary Immaculate convent on the Fifth Line just north of Limehouse. Denis

Scallen, who ran the retreat, was convicted Friday night on three counts of fraud.

## Board seeks advice

Members of Halton Hills Library Board, concerned about protection to volunteers on library business, will seek answers from an insurance representative.

It was noted that suggested insurance coverage on both the Acton and Georgetown libraries seemed inadequate in view of the fact contents had doubled in the past four years.

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