

Charge dismissed against silent, praying protester

A woman known for her praying on Martin Street appeared in Milton provincial court yesterday in connection with disturbances at Catholic churches in Milton and Halton Hills.

Lucia Amodeo, 49, of Georgetown prayed in the back of the courtroom for several hours yesterday while waiting for her case to be heard. When finally called before the court, Ms Amodeo knelt where the accused usually stands and continued praying.

She refused to respond when asked if she was guilty or not guilty of an alleged Nov. 12 disturbance at Holy Cross Church in Georgetown, and was presumed by Judge William Sharpe to be pleading not guilty.

Following testimony, the charge accusing her of interrupting a charismatic prayer group at the church was dismissed by Judge Sharpe, due to

lack of evidence.

Ms Amodeo, who believes charismatic-type worship is the work of Satan, still faces five charges in connection with other alleged disturbances at Holy Cross, as well as Holy

Rosary Church on Martin Street.

Because the remaining charges are similar, they were put over until Jan. 6 to be heard by a different judge, at the request of Crown Attorney James Cornish.

Man guilty in child porn case but dispute remains

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Court heard the bag was stolen during an overnight break-in at a Steeles Avenue company where Mr. Cassidy worked.

That same night, the thieves are also believed to have been responsible for a break-in at a Bronie Street store across from the plaza.

The bag contained polaroid pic-

tures and photocopied enlargements of the boys, as well as homosexual publications and literature on pedophiles and man-boy love relationships.

Mr. Cassidy's fingerprints were found on the material and a letter in the bag was addressed to him. A search warrant at his home produced videotapes of naked boys.

However, the Crown and defence lawyer Peter McWilliams argued over whether all of the material in the bag is considered illegally obscene.

While the Crown said the material in its entirety is illegal, Mr. McWilliams disagreed.

He maintained the majority of the publications are not considered child pornography under new Canadian law.

To resolve the dispute, Judge William Sharpe ordered a trial on the issue.

The trial has been scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 25 in Oakville provincial court at 11 a.m.

Mr. Cornish says he intends to withdraw further charges of sexual assault and making obscene material at Mr. Cassidy's sentencing.



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