
The Columbus Dispatch

Man to be cleared in stabbing, attorney says

A German Village man accused of stabbing a Roman Catholic priest during confession will be cleared of charges, his attorney predicted yesterday.

Marcus A. Finefrock, 25, of 201 Blenkner St. has been charged with felonious assault in Middletown, Ohio.

"So far, there's been insufficient evidence" to prove Finefrock committed any crime, attorney Clyde Bennett II said from his law office in Cincinnati.

The Rev. Charles Mentrup, 41, of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati identified Finefrock as the man who attacked him during a confession Friday at Mentrup's home, Middletown

police said.

Mentrup is reluctant to testify against Finefrock, police said. Priests are forbidden from revealing details of a confession. Mentrup was in good condition yesterday in Middletown Regional Hospital, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Bennett said his client comes from a good family, has no criminal history and is a recent law-school graduate. He said he did not know which law school Finefrock attended.

Finefrock turned himself in two days after learning he was wanted by police. He will appear for a preliminary hearing Monday in Butler County Municipal Court, Bennett said.