

Dissident Priest Charges 'Heresy'

By **BILL ENFIELD**
Of The Journal Staff

The archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has committed acts of heresy and allowed children in Catholic schools to be "perverted morally," a Houston priest charged Friday.

Father Hector Bolduc, who has clashed with the Oklahoma City archdiocese before, said Archbishop John R. Quinn has violated Catholic doctrines.

Bolduc, who is one of the leaders of a group of Catholics calling for adherence to what they

claim are traditional Catholic practices, leveled a number of charges at Quinn and the archdiocese.

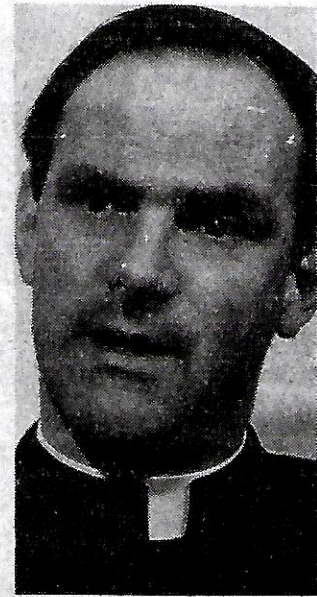
Quinn released a statement Monday saying the group, represented in Oklahoma City by the St. Athanasius Chapel, is functioning without authority.

Bolduc said his charges against Quinn center on celebration of the mass.

"Archbishop Quinn has taken it onto himself to change the mass," Bolduc said.

He said nothing is more sacred to a Roman

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Father Bolduc

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Catholic than the mass and by altering it Archbishop Quinn has committed heresy and placed himself "outside the church."

Although Bolduc's group celebrates mass in Latin rather than English, Bolduc said the main dispute concerns content of the mass.

Priests in the city archdiocese also are allowed to preach in non-Catholic churches and Catholics are permitted to attend non-Catholic services, Bolduc said. Both these actions are heresy, he said.

An archdiocese spokesman said the archbishop is out of town, but would probably stand on his statement Monday.

"People here know him (Quinn)," the spokesman said. "They know he's the head of the church here and there's no need to defend his integrity."

Bolduc said Quinn's actions have contributed to a more than 50 percent decline in the number of Oklahoma Catholics in recent years.

Bolduc also said the archdiocese schools are "promoting heresy" especially in the area of sex education.

"Students are taught there is no longer any sin," he said. "They are taught if it feels good, do it."

He said sex education classes lead to "permissiveness and experimentation."

Sex education should be "left in the hands of parents," he said.

The archdiocese spokesman said Bolduc's charges against Catholic schools are "way off target."

"Catholic schools don't need any defense," he said.

"They're known for their close contact among teachers, students and parents and these persons would be the first to stand up for the schools."

Bolduc threatened to file a slander suit against the city archdiocese this summer after a church publication said Bolduc had not been ordained and questioned his credentials.

Bolduc said he was ordained by a bishop in Switzerland two years ago and is operating under his authority.

The city chapel consists of "about 100 dedicated members" and celebrates mass Fridays and Saturdays in private homes and office buildings.

Bolduc said the traditionalists in Houston number about 600 and have recently purchased a closed down Catholic school and church there.

Traditionalists are gaining strength worldwide and Bolduc said he believes eventually the church will split into traditionalists and non-traditionalists.

Bolduc said the Roman Catholic Church has experienced similar disputes in the past and the traditionalists have always triumphed.

"The church always buries its enemies," he said.