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DNA Sex Test for Priest Asked

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STAFF WRITER

Saying she has proof of her sexual relationship with a Catholic priest from whom she had sought spiritual guidance, a Rocky Point mother of three has asked the courts to order him to submit to DNA testing.

Susan Langford in June filed a \$375-million lawsuit against Msgr. Nicholas Sivillo, pastor of Our Lady of Hope Church in Middle Village, Queens, charging that he forced her into a sexual relationship in 1990 by taking advantage of her illness. She has multiple sclerosis. In papers filed this week in State Supreme Court in Brooklyn, Langford said the DNA test "would serve as a final resolution of the issue of whether sexual intercourse occurred

Langford said she has a towel containing Sivillo's semen, which she wants to compare with a DNA test from the priest.

Sivillo has denied the allegations, as has the Diocese of Brooklyn, which is named as a co-defendant in the lawsuit.

Woman who sued claims proof

pastor of Our Lady of Hope, could not be reached for comment yesterday. His attorney, Terance Quinlan of White, Quinlan, Staley & Ledwith of Garden City, said he hadn't seen any evidence that supported her charges.

Frank DeRosa, a spokesman for the Brooklyn Diocese, said the allegations were looked into by the diocese and that the case "is in the hands of the attorneys at this point."

Langford's attorney, Cary Goldinger of Garden City, said he sought to have Sivillo voluntarily submit to DNA testing. "My client does have a terminal illness, so time is of the essence here," he said.

Langford said she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in January, 1989. Langford, who at the time lived in Middle Village, called her parish church seeking spiritual guidance in preparation for her death. Sivillo came to her home and for two years visited

counseling her and establishing close ties with her family, she said. Langford and her husband have since divorced, which she blames largely on Sivillo. After several months of counseling, the physical symptoms of Langford's illness disappeared, she said, and Sivillo told her it was his prayers that "made her better."

In May, 1990, Sivillo told her he loved her, she said. When Langford tried to sever her ties to the priest, Sivillo "immediately began hugging, kissing and grabbing plaintiff, stating no one could help her like he could, and only his prayers were keeping her well and preventing her illness" from recurring, according to court papers.

The next day, Langford again tried to break off the relationship, but Sivillo came to her house and suggested they go for a ride to talk, she said. They went to his Long Beach summer home,

gether naked, the suit charges, saying, "This was okay in the eyes of God."

Sivillo resumed his visits to her home and Langford, "feeling totally and completely dependent on [Sivillo], and convinced that absent his counselling, she would again become deathly ill, succumbed to defendant Sevillo's sexual advances and began engaging in acts of sexual intercourse with him," according to court papers.

Langford and her fiance, Gerard Mirabella of Rocky Point, met with diocesan officials in February, 1995, and said they were assured that Sivillo would be removed from his post.

"The thing I find really upsetting is because he's still there, people have the opinion that he didn't do anything, that perhaps I just dropped the case, that perhaps it never happened because people are in denial of situations like this and they much prefer not to think about things like this," said Langford. "The longer he remains there, the longer people will think that this never happened and what worries me a lot is they will start to renew their faith and trust