

Pastor charged in gunfire incident

By Craig Gordon

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An Irondequoit pastor has been arrested and charged with firing a .38-caliber handgun during an argument with his housemate.

The Rev. Leonard Bealko, 43, of St. Casimir's Polish National Catholic Church, was charged Thursday with first-degree reckless endangerment, a felony, Irondequoit police Capt. Robert Longdue said.

No one was hurt in the incident at 495 Barry Road, where Longdue said both men live.

David L. Rorabaugh, 22, told police the argument started after he accused Bealko of taking his check and asked him how a photograph of Rorabaugh's girlfriend's broke, according to a typed statement by Rorabaugh taken by police.

At one point, Bealko got the gun, the statement said.

"He had the gun in both hands and ... was pointing it right at me. He was yelling that he was going to blow my head off," Rorabaugh's statement said.

Rorabaugh said in his statement that he turned and walked away and Bealko fired the gun once.

Bealko's statement to police says Rorabaugh was acting violently in the house and throwing things and that he thought Rorabaugh was going for the gun. So Bealko got it himself, the statement said.

"David ran into his room, and I fired the gun into the floor to scare him," Bealko's statement said.

Longdue said Rorabaugh ran to a nearby apartment complex and had someone call police.

Longdue said Monroe County Child Protective Division workers Thursday removed a 17-year-old boy who had been

staying at the house, Bealko said in an interview that the boy was visiting from Pennsylvania and was on his way home.

The reckless endangerment charge accuses Bealko of acting recklessly by firing the gun and creating a risk of death to another person, Longdue said.

Bealko also is charged with fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon because the gun was not registered, Longdue said. Bealko was released on his own recognizance after his arraignment Thursday.

Bealko said in his statement that he met Rorabaugh three years ago in Pennsylvania. "We became attracted to each other and have had a relationship for the last 2½ years," his statement said.

Bealko said he moved to Rochester in June 1987, that Rorabaugh moved with him and that their relationship continued since then. Bealko said yesterday that he and Rorabaugh were friends.