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Ananova :

Pope accepts sex abuse bishop's resignation

The Pope has accepted the resignation of a Florida bishop who sexually abused a teenager more than 25 years ago.

Bishop Anthony O'Connell of Palm Beach is the highest-ranking clergyman to fall in a series of scandals rocking the Roman Catholic Church in the United States.

The 63-year-old offered his resignation after admitting to allegations made by former student Christopher Dixon, now 40.

Mr Dixon said they touched inappropriately in bed after he sought out Bishop O'Connell for counselling.

Bishop O'Connell was installed in 1999 to replace Palm Beach Bishop Keith Symons, who resigned because of sexual involvement with boys.

The Palm Beach case came amid a major sex-abuse scandal in the Boston archdiocese, where a former priest, John Geoghan, has been accused by 130 people of molesting them during his decades as a clergyman.

Story filed: 12:45 Wednesday 13th March 2002

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