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Catholic priest Kevin Gray stole \$1M and spent it on male escorts: police

NEWS WIRE SERVICES
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Wednesday, July 07, 2010

A disgruntled Catholic priest was charged Tuesday with raiding church coffers to finance a double life befitting a mogul - and to pay for male escorts.

The Rev. Kevin Gray, former pastor at Sacred Heart in Waterbury, Conn., was charged with first-degree larceny, which carries up to 20 years in prison.

He allegedly stole \$1.3 million over seven years and spent some of the cash on designer duds and luxury Manhattan hotels and restaurants.

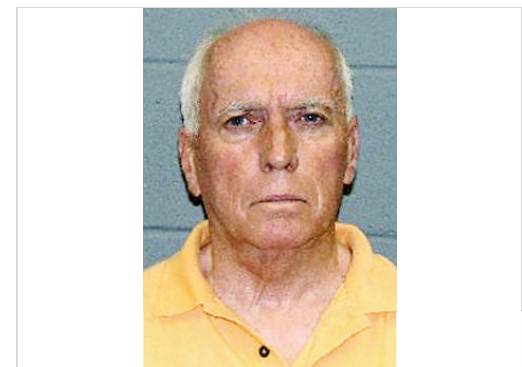
Gray, 64, stayed at the W Hotel and the Waldorf-Astoria, ate at Tavern on the Green and bought Armani and Brooks Brothers suits, cell phones and laptops, said Waterbury police Capt. Christopher Corbett.

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He opened credit card accounts for two men he had met - one at a male strip club and another through a male escort service, according to court papers.

One of them racked up \$67,000 in charges - including \$5,410 for tuition at LaGuardia Community College in Queens. The other charged almost \$50,000 to the card, including Louis Vuitton merchandise and \$9,000 in Crunch gym fees.

A third man he met in Central Park said Gray paid for his classes at Harvard, piano lessons and veterinarian bills - claiming he was a lawyer who had won big cases.

"The life he was leading in New York City was much different than the life he was leading in Waterbury as a priest," Corbett said.

"He's certainly an example of someone who was leading a double life."

A police affidavit says Gray admitted he swiped about \$1 million and told investigators did it because he hated being a priest and got lousy assignments from the Archdiocese of Hartford.

He was Sacred Heart's pastor from January 2003 until April 15, when he was granted a medical leave.

He told the congregation he was battling cancer, but detectives have determined that was a lie.

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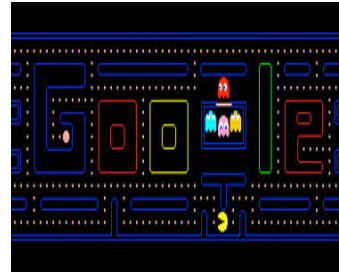
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