

August 9, 2007 - Mexican Priest killed son in attempt to save career, authorities say  
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A Mexican priest has been sentenced to 55 years in prison for killing a son he did not want his superiors to discover, prosecutors said today. The Rev. Dagoberto Valle Arriaga confessed to killing his son, Oscar Emmanuel Valle Hernandez, two years ago, said the attorney general's office for the central state of Mexico.

Valle, who fathered the child with a woman identified as Maria Felix Hernandez Espinoza, was afraid church officials would uncover the child's existence and remove him from the priesthood, authorities said in a statement.

Prosecutors did not say how old the son was at the time of his death, or release any details about his mother. Valle was a Roman Catholic priest in the city of Texcoco, just east of Mexico City. A telephone call to the diocese in Texcoco was not returned today.

Valle kidnapped his son in the city of Ecatepec, also in Mexico state, on Sept. 14, 2005, and brought him to the north-central state of Guanajuato, where he eventually killed him, the attorney general's office said.

Authorities did not release the exact day of the murder or describe the circumstances. Also authorities did not release the age of the child.

The Mexican Association of Missing Children reported that the child was 8 years old when he disappeared, shortly before his death. Valle also faces a fine of \$10,000.

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