

Police Recover Priest's Car

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Authorities recovered a station wagon Thursday in southeast Oklahoma City that belonged to a Catholic priest found dead in his apartment Wednesday, police said.

The 1974 Oldsmobile station wagon was found under a bridge at SE 6 and Byers early Thursday, Capt. Bob Jones said. Police believe the car was stolen after someone beat the Rev. Richard Frank Dolan to death.

Authorities said Dolan had been dead for about two days when his body was discovered.

Jones said the car was apparently abandoned by the killer, although police are not certain who drove the car to SE 6 and Byers. He said the vehicle was stripped of its tires and wheels.

"We don't know if the suspect drove it there or if he loaned it to someone who drove it there," Jones said. "We're treating it as if the suspect drove the car."

The car was taken to the Oklahoma City Police Department and processed for fingerprints. Jones said miscellaneous items in the car also were being processed for fingerprints.

Homicide detectives are continuing their investigation into Dolan's death, although an arrest is not imminent, Jones said. He said investigators have still not been able to determine a motive for the killing.

Dolan's body was discovered Wednesday when an apartment manager was making a routine check of the complex. Police said there was no sign of forced entry into the apartment, 130 NW 17, although it was ransacked. Dolan, 66, was known for his work with recovering alcoholics. The Roman Catholic Church assigned him to establish a program for alcoholics in 1967. In 1968, he established The Main Artery, which was one of the few alcohol recovery programs at the time.

The priest continued his work with alcoholics during the mid-1970s, even though the Catholic Church had withdrawn its support.

Dolan became a controversial figure in the Catholic Church for operating several bingo halls, and because he was arrested and charged with engaging in an act of lewdness with an Oklahoma City vice squad officer in 1974. BIOG: NAME:

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