

CATHOLIC PRIEST KILLED BY OWN GUN IN EDO

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A Catholic priest, Reverend Father Peter Ayala, was on Sunday morning found dead inside his apartment at the St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church, Sobe, in the Owan West Local Council area of Edo State. He was suspected of having mistakenly killed himself with his own gun.

Ayala who was due to celebrate the mass at 7.00 a.m. was said to be cleaning his pistol inside the apartment within the church premises when the gun reportedly went off and killed him.

It was gathered that the incident happened in the early hours of Sunday before the priest dressed up for the mass, while worshippers were gathering for the church service.

The development threw the full capacity church into confusion, as both the mass servers and church elders, during frantic efforts to know what went wrong, found the priest lying in a pool of his own blood in his apartment.

The elders later reported the incident to the Bishop of the Auchi Diocese, Gabriel Duniya, who then conducted a quick investigation with security agents and confirmed that the priest died when the pistol he was cleaning went off.

Meanwhile, Sobe community was still in mourning mood, as Christians irrespective of their denominations in panic gathered near the church premises, discussing the incident in hushed tones.

Edo State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Moses Eguavoen, when contacted described the incident as unfortunate, adding that the police command was yet to get the full details of what transpired before the priest's death.

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