

## **Statement by Archdiocese of Seattle Regarding settlement with Edward Courtney victim**

The Archdiocese of Seattle reached a settlement agreement Jan. 29 with an individual who was sexually abused by Edward Courtney during the 1981-82 school year at Parkland Elementary School in the Franklin Pierce School District. Courtney, formerly a member of the Christian Brothers of Ireland, was a sixth-grade teacher at the school which has since closed.

Seattle Archbishop J. Peter Sartain said he hopes the \$1.5 million settlement will bring closure and assist the survivor in his healing process.

As a member of the Christian Brothers, an independent international religious order, Courtney previously had been hired as principal of St. Alphonsus School, a Catholic elementary school in the Archdiocese of Seattle. Courtney was forced to resign from his position at St. Alphonsus in 1981 after a report of inappropriate behavior. At the time, the Archdiocese of Seattle had no information to indicate Courtney had a prior history of sexually abusing students. And due to the nature of the allegation, Courtney's supervisor did not think the incident met the standard for notifying law enforcement and did not report it as abuse. Prior to his position at St. Alphonsus, Courtney taught at O'Dea High School, which was administered and operated by the Christian Brothers.

Archbishop Sartain said he deeply regrets the harm done to the victim in every case of child sexual abuse. To assure that archdiocesan schools and parishes maintain the highest standards of safety, the Archdiocese of Seattle implements a robust Safe Environment Program. The program requires criminal background checks on all employees and volunteers who have unsupervised contact with children, and compliance with all applicable laws with respect to the reporting of allegations of sexual abuse of minors to civil authorities. All employees, volunteers and students at archdiocesan schools are trained to identify the warning signs of abuse and how to take action to prevent it.

The Archdiocese requests that anyone who has knowledge of sexual abuse or misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Archdiocese of Seattle call the archdiocesan hotline at 1-800-446-7762.

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*For more information, contact: Greg Magnoni (425) 829-5520*