



For immediate release

The Archdiocese of Seattle Settles Abuse Cases from 1970s

Seattle, WA Oct 2, 2019 - The Archdiocese of Seattle recently reached final settlements for two separate cases involving allegations of sexual abuse that took place in the 1970s.

On June 17, 2019, the Archdiocese of Seattle, St. Benedict's Abbey, and The American-Cassinense Congregation jointly reached a settlement for \$225,000 for a case involving allegations of sexual abuse by Fr. John Forrester, who died in 2002. Forrester was a Benedictine priest from St. Benedict's Abbey, in Atchison, KS, and was serving as Assistant Pastor of All Saints Parish in Puyallup. He served in the Archdiocese until 1979 when Archbishop Hunthausen received a complaint of sexual abuse and immediately removed him from service.

On August 20, 2019, the Archdiocese of Seattle reached a settlement for \$250,000 for a case involving two members of the Christian Brothers of Ireland, Brother Frank Delamere and Brother William Donohue. The Christian Brothers, a now bankrupt religious order, is a separate entity from the Archdiocese of Seattle. These brothers were accused of inappropriate behavior with a student at the Briscoe School in the early 1960s. The Christian Brothers operated the Briscoe School until its closure in the 1970s.

Forrester, Delamere and Donohue were included in the Archdiocese's List of Clergy and Religious Brothers and Sisters for Whom Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor Have Been Admitted, Established or Determined to Be Credible, originally published in January 2016.

Commitment to Transparency

As part of our commitment to transparency the Archdiocese of Seattle recently launched a new website called [Protect and Heal](http://www.protect-and-heal.org), which outlines the history of sexual abuse in the archdiocese, which peaked in 1975 and has since sharply declined. The website outlines the steps the archdiocese has taken since the 1980s to address and prevent abuse, protect the community and help victims and their families heal. For more information please visit www.protect-seattlearchdiocese.org.

To report any suspicion of abuse by any Church personnel, please contact local law enforcement. In addition, anyone who has knowledge of misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Archdiocese of Seattle is urged to call the archdiocesan helpline at 1-800-446-7762.

About the Archdiocese of Seattle

The Archdiocese of Seattle encompasses all of Western Washington, stretching from Canada to Oregon and from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. There are 169 parishes, missions and pastoral centers in

the archdiocese, with more than 500 weekly Masses celebrated in eight languages. Archbishop Paul D. Etienne leads the archdiocese with his two auxiliary bishops, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo and Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, visit seattlearchdiocese.org.

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