



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2018

**Statement by the Archdiocese of Seattle
Regarding Recent Settlements of Abuse Cases**

The Archdiocese of Seattle reached settlements this month totaling \$2.05 million for five cases involving allegations of sexual abuse by Edward Courtney, who was a member of the Christian Brothers religious order. One of the five cases involved allegations of sexual abuse by Gerard Kealy, who was also a member of the Christian Brothers religious order. Both worked within the Archdiocese in the 1970s and early 1980s. The alleged abuse occurred between 36 and 42 years ago. The Archdiocese attempts to arrive at fair and just settlements to assist the victims with healing and to achieve some measure of closure. Regarding the two members of the religious order involved, Kealy is deceased and Courtney has been permanently removed from ministry. Their names appear among those on the archdiocesan public disclosure [list](#) first published in 2016.

“Sexual abuse of a minor is an intrinsic moral evil and a crime,” said Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of the Archdiocese of Seattle. “Not only must we do all possible to prevent these horrible actions from happening again, we must extend meaningful support and care to victims. I express my sincere shame and remorse for the incredible harm these crimes have caused the victims and their families.”

The Archdiocese of Seattle has instituted numerous measures to prevent sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults by members of the clergy or others representing the Church. There have been no new known instances of clergy sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Seattle in the past decade. “No amount of abuse is acceptable, which is why we are committed to prevention and accountability measures to ensure these horrible crimes of the past are not repeated in the future,” said Archbishop Sartain.

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

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