

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2014

Archdiocese announces settlement

The Archdiocese of Seattle announced today that it settled 30 claims of sexual abuse by members of the Christian Brothers at two institutions managed by the order in western Washington. The most recent cases in the proceeding are nearly 30 years old with some dating back almost 60 years.

The settlement totaled \$12.1 million and was funded by archdiocesan insurance programs.

A teaching order, the Christian Brothers operated The Briscoe School, a boarding and day school for boys in the Kent Valley, beginning in 1914. The order also staffed and managed Bishop O’Dea High School, an archdiocesan high school, from its opening in 1923.

“I deeply regret the pain suffered by these victims,” Archbishop J. Peter Sartain said. “Our hope is that this settlement will bring them closure and allow them to continue the process of healing.”

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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Draft Backgrounder

Lawsuits involving The Archdiocese of Seattle and the Christian Brothers

January 30, 2008

O'Dea High School, Brother Courtney

Bishop O'Dea High School is an archdiocesan high school. From its opening, the Christian Brothers were responsible for staffing and managing the school under contract with the Archdiocese of Seattle. Within the parameters of this responsibility the Christian Brothers selected and appointed a Christian Brother to serve as principal of the school and assigned individual Christian Brothers to teach at the school. They also hired lay teachers to help staff O'Dea High School. In 1975? Brother Courtney was assigned by the Christian Brothers to teach at O'Dea High School. He taught at O'Dea High School from 1975 -1979?.

Brother Courtney & St. Alphonsus School

St. Alphonsus School is a parish school of the Archdiocese of Seattle. Brother Courtney who was on leave from the Christian Brother was hired to serve as principal at St. Alphonsus in 1979. The Archdiocese of Seattle was unaware of any previous allegations of abuse against Brother Courtney prior to his hiring by St. Alphonsus School.

Brother Courtney was terminated from his position as principal in 1980 when the parish received an allegation of abuse.

The Briscoe School

In 1914, the Archdiocese Seattle signed a contract with the Christian Brothers to operate a boarding and day school for boys at facilities in the Kent Valley owned by the Archdiocese. The contract gave the Christian Brothers the right and the full responsibility to operate, direct, manage, and staff the school. In essence, the Archdiocese leased the buildings to the Christian Brothers to run Briscoe School.

The Archdiocese of Seattle is named in lawsuits involving the Briscoe School because of its ownership of the property, and because some of the placements of students at the school were handled by the Archdiocesan Catholic Charities Office. Catholic Charities was one of several social agencies, including the State of Washington, which placed youth at Briscoe. The school was also academically accredited through the Archdiocese