

# For Immediate Release

March 30, 2006

## Seattle Archdiocese updates local clergy abuse data

**(Seattle)** In conjunction with an update of national statistics on clergy abuse, the Archdiocese of Seattle today released information on the number of local clergy abuse allegations and the costs associated with settlements.

For the third year in a row, an independent audit team found the Archdiocese of Seattle in full compliance with national standards for addressing sexual abuse of minors by clergy.

“Once again, I offer my sincere apology to anyone who has suffered abuse by a member of the clergy or an employee of the Seattle Archdiocese,” said Archbishop Alex J. Brunett. “I am aware of their pain and I reaffirm my personal commitment to provide counseling and pastoral care to every victim in order to heal the wounds of abuse and bring closure to all who have been harmed.”

In 2005, the Archdiocese received 6 previously unreported allegations of clergy child sexual abuse in addition to 12 allegations regarding Christian Brothers dating from 1955 to the mid 1980s. The accused priests are deceased, laicized or permanently removed from ministry.

Since 1950, The Seattle Archdiocese has had 53 priests with allegations against them from 202 individuals.

Local costs associated with clergy abuse over the past 19 years total approximately \$26 million including financial settlements with victims, payments for counseling and attorneys' fees. The Archdiocese of Seattle has covered the costs with a combination of Archdiocesan insurance programs and reserve funds from property sold more than 20 years ago.

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