

**For Immediate Release**

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**ARCHDIOCESE SETTLES EIGHT CLERGY ABUSE CASES FOR \$9.1 MILLION**

The Archdiocese of Seattle announced today that it has reached settlement with eight women who were sexually abused as children by Michael Cody. The victims were abused by Cody, a former archdiocesan priest, while he was serving in Whatcom and Skagit County parishes between 1968 and 1974.

“I deeply regret the abuse by Michael Cody against these victims and I hope this monetary settlement, and the counseling we have provided them, will bring healing and give them a measure of closure so they can move forward,” said Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, Archbishop of Seattle. “It also is my hope that these individuals will accept my offer to meet with me so I can offer them my personal apology.”

Cody, who is deceased, has not served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Seattle since 1979. He was ordained in 1958 and was laicized by the Vatican in 2005.

Cody was a parish priest in a number of parishes in Western Washington. The women who participated in the settlement with the archdiocese were abused while he served at St. Charles Parish, Burlington; Sacred Heart Parish, La Conner; St. Paul Mission, Swinomish; and the Church of the Assumption, Bellingham.

“Our first priority is the protection of children and healing for past victims,” Archbishop Sartain said. “It is my firm commitment to build on the good efforts of the past and continue to take steps that will truly help victims of clergy sexual abuse to heal. This \$9 million settlement demonstrates our ongoing commitment to acknowledge and address the devastating impact of clergy sexual abuse, and to encourage victims to come forward.”

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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