



Statement of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Regarding Settlement of Claims Against the Diocese Involving James Reilly

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Friday reached a settlement agreement through mediation of claims brought against the Diocese by a person who was allegedly abused by James Reilly.

Bishop Michael Olson stated that he is deeply sorry for any sexual abuse the victim may have endured and suffered by Reilly. He further stated that such actions are a sin and a crime.

Bishop Michael Olson stresses that the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth will address any charge of abuse as quickly and as pastorally as possible.

“As the shepherd of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, I am committed to ensuring that the Diocese’s policies are adhered to so we can prevent future tragedy such as that which has befallen the victims of abuse,” he said.

The Diocese has been and is committed to being in compliance with the requirements of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* adopted by the Bishops of the United States in 2002.

The Diocese, in accordance with its policies, has actively sought victims of abuse in the Arlington parish where Reilly was assigned. Reilly was assigned to St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church in Arlington from 1969 through 1987. He retired in 1987 and moved to Philadelphia. He died in 1999.

The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth asks that anyone who has either witnessed or has suffered sexual abuse by anyone who services the Church to come forward so that the individual and the Church can continue the healing process. To report abuse to the civil authorities, call the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services) at 1-800-252-5400. To report abuse to the Diocese of Fort Worth call Judy Locke, the Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 817-560-2452, ext. 201 or e-mail her at jlocke@fwdioc.org. Persons also can call the sexual abuse hotline, 817-560-2452, ext. 900.