

Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth
For Immediate Release
June 23, 2008
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Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Regarding Settlement of Claim Against the Diocese Involving James Reilly

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

The Diocese will not disclose the identity of the individual, details of the settlement, nor the amount of the settlement, as part of the Diocese's commitment to the victim's healing process. However, the settlement was in the five figure range.

Bishop Kevin Vann, in addressing the Individual via letter, said:

"I am deeply sorry for any sexual abuse you may have endured and suffered by Msgr. Reilly. I am deeply ashamed and truly sorry. I pray that healing and reconciliation can be achieved in your life. I have previously stated that such actions are a sin and a crime."

Bishop Vann emphasizes that the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth will address any charge of abuse as quickly and as pastorally as possible

"As I have stated in the past and want to reiterate now, I am committed to making sure the Diocese's policies are adhered to in order to prevent future tragedy such as that which has befallen the victims of abuse," he said.

The Diocese has been in compliance with the Charter's requirements in every audit conducted since their passage in 2002. An audit by an independent auditing firm hired by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was done in Fall 2007. The Diocese was found in compliance with the Charter requirements.

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 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. Or call The Catholic Center 817-560-2452, ext. 102 and ask for the Chancellor, Father E. James Hart