

September 7, 2007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SAN DIEGO CATHOLIC DIOCESE REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH
CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS**

San Diego, CA – Following months of intensive mediation with Federal Magistrate Judge Leo Papas, the Roman Catholic Bishop of San Diego ("Diocese of San Diego") and The Roman Catholic Bishop of San Bernardino ("Diocese of San Bernardino") have reached a settlement for \$198.125 million with lawyers representing 144 sexual abuse victims who filed lawsuits against the Diocese of San Diego and the Diocese of San Bernardino in 2003 after the California Legislature opened a one year "window" which revived previously expired claims and allowed lawsuits against third parties to such claims that had otherwise previously been barred by the state's statute of limitations.

The settlement was reached with the invaluable assistance of Federal Magistrate Judge Leo Papas to whom the matter was sent by Federal Bankruptcy Judge Louise DeCarl Adler for mediation during a pending Chapter 11 case filed by the Diocese of San Diego.

"The Diocese has always been committed to resolving this litigation in a way that fairly compensates these victims of abuse and would still preserve the on-going ministries and programs of the Church," said Bishop Brom. "We pray that this settlement will bring some closure and healing to the years of suffering experienced by these victims."

" This settlement recognizes the enormous courage of the survivors and all parties hope that this settlement will bring some relief for the pain that survivors have endured for so long. We appreciate the enormous commitment by Judge Papas over the past several months to reach a

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settlement that will help the victims move forward with their lives in a positive way, finally putting this trauma behind them” said Irwin Zalkin, one of the attorneys involved in the mediation on behalf of the survivors.

As part of the settlement the Roman Catholic Bishop of San Diego, the Roman Catholic Bishop of San Bernardino and various Catholic Religious Orders will pay the 144 sexual abuse victims a global settlement amount of \$198.125 million. As a further part of the settlement and as mutually agreed by all parties, the Diocese of San Diego will also request that Judge Adler dismiss the Chapter 11 case. How much each victim will receive of the global settlement will be determined by a state court judge.

Details of the settlement still need to be concluded and presented to Judge Adler as part of a request by the Diocese of San Diego to voluntarily dismiss the Chapter 11 case. Any dispute over public disclosure of records of any perpetrator will be determined by a private neutral. Because this settlement was reached through mediation, any discussion or other information regarding how this settlement was reached is strictly confidential.

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