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Media Advisory
April 29, 2015

Settlements Announced in Two Civil Cases Involving the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

The two survivors, Doe 10 and Doe 187, were sexually abused as minors by Martin Satchell and William Ayres

(Philadelphia, PA) - Two cases involving the sexual abuse of minors by clergy within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia were settled shortly before the trials were scheduled to begin. These cases were among the first filed by attorneys Jeff Anderson and Dan Monahan in the aftermath of the 2011 Philadelphia Grand Jury Reports issued by the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. To protect the privacy of these survivors and their families who continue to reside within the Archdiocese the survivors were assigned the pseudonyms John Doe 10 and John Doe 187. The amount of the settlements remain confidential.

In striking similarity, both cases exhibited the pattern and practice of the Archdiocese regarding sexually abusive clerics. Both alleged perpetrators began abusing children while residing and studying at the Archdiocesan seminary and subsequently continued on to become priests of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia working with children at North Philadelphia area parishes including both St. Jerome's and Incarnation of Our Lord.

According to attorney Dan Monahan, "Despite a variety of red flags, inappropriate behavior and in some cases admissions by the alleged perpetrators these and other priests were allowed to continue to molest children like John Doe 10 and John Doe 187 within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. We believe that it is now clear that what happened to these children was wrong; was not their fault and that accountability for these truths brings about healing and protects future children from this fate."

Fr. Satchell: More than a decade after admitting to sexually abusing children, Martin Satchell was removed from the priesthood. He is now believed to be living in the North Philadelphia area. After his priestly duties at St. Jerome's were restricted Satchell is believed to have worked for a time at the Haverford School and Episcopal Academy, private schools on the Main Line, along with officiating at a wedding and traveling throughout Europe with another sexually abusive priest.

Fr. William Ayres: Rather than facing the lawsuit, Ayres is believed to have left the United States and to be currently residing in Mixco, Guatemala where he was known to travel in the past and associate with children. Even though concerns about Ayres practice of isolating children in his bedroom were raised to Church officials as early as 2001 it is believed that the first report to law enforcement was made by John Doe 187 in 2010 when he reported the abuse he suffered to police.

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