



Archdiocese of Santa Fe

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STATEMENT

Agreement Reached in Archdiocese of Santa Fe Chapter 11 Proceedings

ALBUQUERQUE – Thursday, December 29, 2022– IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, has made the following statement on the agreement reached in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Chapter 11 proceedings:

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, I announce that the United States Bankruptcy Court, presided over by the Honorable David T. Thuma, has confirmed the agreement reached between all parties in the Chapter 11 proceedings that began on December 3, 2018, when the archdiocese filed for bankruptcy. Judge Thuma commended the parties to the bankruptcy, recognizing the arduous yet fruitful process that unfolded these past four years. In particular, I wish to express my profound appreciation to the survivors who served on the Unsecured Creditors' Committee. They represented all survivors of clergy sexual abuse who presented a claim in the bankruptcy. Their challenging work was vital to the success of the settlement and certainly was not easy as they continued to deal with the aftermath of their own abuse.

While I hope and pray that the bankruptcy outcome will bring a measure of justice and relief to the survivors of clergy sexual abuse, I realize that nothing can ever compensate them for the criminal and horrendous abuse they endured. I pledge that the Archdiocese of Santa Fe will remain vigilant in protecting children and young people from clergy sexual abuse, doing all we can to assure them of a safe and protective environment in the Catholic Church. We will continue to monitor the safeguards we have put in place and implement the non-monetary agreements. In the weeks ahead, we will publicize more details of the agreement since it is our desire to assure everyone that the Archdiocese of Santa Fe has learned from past errors and is solidly on board to maintain a safe environment for children and young people, offer healing and reconciliation to survivors of sexual abuse, make prompt and effective responses to allegations, cooperate with civil authorities and discipline offenders, all the while maintaining our zero tolerance for clergy sexual abuse and any other abuse of children and young people.

Once again, I express my most profound sorrow and contrition for those who have endured clergy sexual abuse. This is a sin that cries to heaven for vengeance and which has no place in the Catholic Church: not now, not ever.

Anyone sexually abused as a minor or who knows about a case of sexual abuse of a minor should immediately report it to the civil authorities. When such sexual abuse has been committed by a cleric, religious, seminarian, diocesan or parish employee, or a diocesan or parish volunteer, it also should be reported to the Archbishop of Santa Fe through the Archdiocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, **505.831.8144**. | aklimka@archdiosf.org--END