

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



STATEMENT BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO ON SETTLEMENTS REACHED WITH SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE BY CLERGY July 21, 2009

The Archdiocese of Chicago confirmed that settlements totaling \$3.9 million have been reached for six survivors of sexual abuse involving four former priests. All of the cases involve abuse that happened between 1970 and 1986.

The settlements were reached through a comprehensive mediation process, which seeks prompt and fair resolution of the survivors' cases. Key elements of the process include sharing of documents and information, public disclosure of information and use of a special arbitrator to resolve disputes. Thomas Gibbons, an attorney and dean of the School of Continuing Studies, Northwestern University, serves as the mediator and Stuart Nudelman, a retired judge, is the special arbitrator.

"It has long been the practice of the Archdiocese to reach out to victims to try to resolve their claims without requiring them to go through lengthy court proceedings," said Chancellor Jimmy Lago of the Archdiocese of Chicago. "We believe that negotiation and mediation are the best, most compassionate ways to resolve these cases, as it spares the survivors and their families the burdens and stresses of an extended legal process."

During the mediation process, Raymond E. Goedert, retired Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, gave his deposition. The full text of the transcript is available at www.archchicago.org. Under the terms of the mediation, other information and files will be made public as the process continues.

All of the priests involved in the settlements have been out of ministry for almost two decades. Their names and status are as follows: Robert C. Becker, deceased in 1989; Norbert Maday, removed from ministry in 1993 and laicized; Russell Romano, resigned from ministry in 1991 and laicized, and Kenneth C. Ruge, removed from ministry in 1991 and deceased in 2002.

It is important to note that during the years contained in Bishop Goedert's deposition (1970 – 1986) Cardinal Francis George was not Archbishop of Chicago and was not living in the United States. In 1990 Pope John Paul II appointed him a Bishop where he served on the West Coast until 1997 when he was named the Archbishop of Chicago.

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