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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO MEDIA

Date: January 29, 2015

Re: Civil Case. No. 348-275623-14; John Doe as Next friend of Jane Doe, vs. The Catholic Diocese of fort Worth and Subiaco Abbey.

On November 18th, 2014 in response to allegations of child sexual abuse, the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, and Subiaco Abbey of Subiaco, Arkansas reached a tentative settlement with the victim. The parties sought court approval of the settlement which was granted Friday January 23rd 2015. The amount of the settlement is confidential.

The Plaintiff, known as Jane Doe, alleged she was sexually abused from 1969 until 1970/71 when she was just eight years old by Father Bede Mitchel who was about seventy at the time.

Father Bede(deceased), was a Benedictine cleric from Subiaco Abbey who was working in and for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Diocese from 1969 until 1975. He was assigned at the time of the alleged abuse of Jane Doe to Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Muenster, Texas as an assistant pastor.

The victim is represented by Dallas attorney Tahira Khan Merritt, whose civil law practice for over 20 years has been dedicated exclusively to representing victims of sexual abuse and assault. "My client was so brave to come forward and speak out about her sexual abuse by Father Bede and to confront the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth and Subiaco Abbey. She is a true hero."

The victim's husband, who filed the case on her behalf, said the family was satisfied with the settlement. "While no amount of money can ever compensate us for the devastating effects of childhood sexual abuse my wife has endured, our hope is that she has finally achieved a measure of closure and healing."

Other Texas parishes to which Bede was assigned or worked include St. Peter Church in Lindsay, Texas, St. Mary Church in Windthorst, St. Boniface Church in Scotland, St. Mary of the Assumption in Fort Worth and St. Paul Church, likewise in Fort Worth.

Bede was also assigned to parishes in Arkansas, including Sacred Heart Church in Charleston, St. Edward Church in Little Rock, St. Ignatius Church in Scranton, St. Peter and Paul Church in Morrison Bluff, St. Anthony Church in Ratcliff, Sacred Heart of Mary in Barling and Holy Redeemer Church in Clarksville, the latter just prior to his assignment at Sacred Heart Church in Muenster.

Please direct any questions you may have to Ms. Merritt at 214-537-3789.