

Molest victims, diocese settle

STOCKTON — Two men molested as children by a Catholic Diocese of Stockton priest have agreed to a \$7.5 million settlement and possible future payments from the diocese's insurers.

The settlement, reached after 10 months of negotiations, halts the diocese's appeal of a San Joaquin County jury verdict that awarded the men \$29.5 million last July.

John and James Howard, 20 and 23, were molested by the Rev. Oliver O'Grady from the time they were young children.

O'Grady was suspended from ministry but not removed from the priesthood. He pleaded guilty to molestation in 1993 and is incarcerated at Mule Creek State Prison in Ione. He is expected to be released in 2000.

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