



Archdiocese of Seattle Settles Five Claims from the 1950s, '70s and '80s

SEATTLE, November 18, 2022 – Today the Archdiocese of Seattle announced final settlements totaling \$2,285,000 for five separate claims related to allegations of sexual abuse decades ago. Three of the five cases involve individuals who are known to be deceased.

This announcement is shared to fulfill the archdiocese's commitment to ongoing transparency around allegations of abuse, to help people heal and to help the Church move forward. Over the past three months, the Archdiocese of Seattle settled the following cases:

- A case involving an allegation of sexual abuse by Father John Cornelius in late 1975 or early 1976 when Cornelius was an associate pastor at St. Mary and St. Therese Parishes in Seattle. Cornelius is deceased.
- Two cases involving an allegation of sexual abuse by a playground supervisor at St. Louise Catholic School in Bellevue in approximately 1980.
- A case involving allegations of sexual abuse by Father Barry Ashwell in approximately 1976 when he served as an associate pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Federal Way. Ashwell is deceased.
- The Archdiocese of Seattle and the Oblate Fathers settled a case involving an allegation of sexual abuse by Daniel Adamson in the late 1950s, while Adamson was a teacher at St. Benedict Catholic School in Seattle. Adamson is deceased.

Commitment to transparency

Ashwell and Cornelius were both identified on the archdiocese's [List of Clergy and Religious Brothers and Sisters for Whom Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor Have Been Admitted, Established or Determined to be Credible](#) when the list was originally published in January 2016.

As part of its commitment to transparency, the Archdiocese of Seattle invites people to visit its [Protect and Heal website](#) to learn about the history of sexual abuse in the archdiocese, which peaked in 1975 and has since sharply declined. The website also outlines how since the early 1980s the archdiocese has taken steps to prevent abuse, protect the community and help victims and their families heal.

To report any suspicion of abuse by any Catholic Church personnel, please contact local law enforcement. In addition, anyone who has knowledge of misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee or a volunteer of the Archdiocese of Seattle is urged to call the archdiocesan hotline at 1-800-446-7762.

About the Archdiocese of Seattle

The Archdiocese of Seattle encompasses all of Western Washington, stretching from Canada to Oregon and from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. There are 72 Catholic schools, and 163 parishes and missions in the archdiocese, with more than 500 weekly Masses celebrated in eight languages. Archbishop Paul D. Etienne leads the archdiocese with his auxiliary bishops, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo and Bishop Frank Schuster. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, visit archseattle.org.

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