

**ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT OF
45 CASES OF ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE BY CLERGY**

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles announced today that it has settled for \$60 million 45 cases in which clergy abuse has been alleged—a cost shared by insurers, religious orders and the Archdiocese.

The Archdiocese's share of the settlement cost—approximately \$40 million—was anticipated and set aside last year. In a statement today (see below), Cardinal Roger Mahony said, "I want to assure you...that no parishes will be affected as a result of this settlement."

Michael Hennigan, an attorney for the Archdiocese, said that the parties to the settlement have reached an agreement on a protocol for releasing non-privileged documents under the supervision of a judge.

Cardinal Mahony's full statement regarding this settlement appears below.

**STATEMENT on the SETTLEMENT of 45 CASES
Cardinal Roger Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles**

Today's settlement of 45 cases is a positive step forward in the Church's efforts to promote healing and reconciliation for those who have suffered abuse by members of the clergy.

At this time, I again offer my personal apology to every victim who has suffered sexual abuse by a priest, religious or deacon in this Archdiocese. The sexual abuse of minors is both a sin and a crime, and there is no place in the priesthood for those who have abused children.

I pray that the settlement of this initial group of cases will help the victims involved to move forward with their lives and to build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

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Victims, attorneys, judges and Church leaders worked diligently together to fashion a settlement that is fair and just. The Archdiocese set aside funds last year in anticipation of the final agreement, as shown in its June 30, 2005, Financial Statement. Now that this settlement is finalized, our attention will focus on the resolution of all remaining cases. To reach a settlement in those cases will require the active participation of the many insurance companies who provided liability insurance during those past years when abuse occurred.

It is my hope that these insurance companies will join all of us in moving steadily toward a final settlement of these cases as soon as possible.

The Archdiocesan Finance Council, the Council of Priests, and the Deans will continue to work closely together to determine the best way to meet the Archdiocese's share of future settlements. This future process will not be without pain and may require the Archdiocese to reevaluate some ministries, services, and non-essential properties. I want to assure you, however, that no parishes will be affected as a result of this settlement.

I also renew the pledge of the Archdiocese to continue the work of preventing sexual abuse and the potential for abuse through our abuse prevention training programs, screening procedures for all priests, employees and volunteers, and our age-appropriate safe environment programs for children in our parishes and schools.

Let us pray for the special intercession of Our Lady of the Angels, so that healing for all victims and their loved ones will continue forward. May Our Lady also guide all of us in bringing about a fair and just settlement of the remaining cases.