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\$4.65 MILLION FOR VICTIMS OF CATHOLIC SEXUAL ABUSE CASE

The Turley Law Firm announces that a major sex abuse case has been resolved.

Six sexually abused children were vindicated today when the Dallas Diocese and the Discalced Carmelite Friars settled with them for \$4,650,000. They were all molested for years during the 1970's and 1980's by Priest Thomas Behnke, while assigned at St Mary of Carmel Catholic Church and School in the Dallas Diocese and Little Flower Catholic Church within the Oklahoma City Diocese. It was also discovered that Behnke abused victims while assigned other places including San Antonio Texas.

Lori Watson and Linda Turley of the Turley Law Firm in Dallas, Texas represented these survivors. The Turley Law Firm also represented the victims of Rudy Kos in the 1997 trial against the Dallas Diocese. The jury verdict in that case began a flood of cases across the nation by survivors of sexual abuse. The Turley Law Firm specializes in representing sexual abuse victims and has represented sexual abuse victims of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dallas related to priests Rudy Kos, Patrick Lynch, Robert Peebles, Ken Roberts and Michael Flanagan. Additionally they have handled many sexual abuse cases against other church denominations, schools, day cares, and hospitals.

Ms. Watson commented that "The majority of the funds in this settlement came from the Carmelite Defendant because it was clearly on notice before these acts of abuse ever occurred that Behnke was a pedophile. It was also alleged the Dallas Diocese failed to investigate Behnke before placing him in the trusted position of Parish priest and allowing him to teach at the St. Mary of Carmel School. Victims need to know that even if years have past since their abuse they still have rights."

Ms. Turley stated, "While we are glad that this matter could be resolved without a trial, it is really unfortunate that these victims have been waiting since 2002 to resolve this case. Each lives everyday with the long term effects of sexual abuse, and needs treatment earlier instead of later. Psychologists agree that early treatment is of the greatest benefit. We hope that in the future religious organizations will step forward early and take financial responsibility for the emotional and psychological injuries resulting from sexual abuse by clerics and lay persons so the victims can begin the long process of healing."

For more information, contact Lori Watson or Linda Turley, Turley Law Firm, 1-800-692-4025 or lindat@wturley.com and loriw@wturley.com.