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NEWS RELEASE

**Archdiocese of Santa Fe Enters Into Agreement of Terms
Regarding Chapter 11 Reorganization Case**

ALBUQUERQUE – Tuesday, May 17, 2022–IMMEDIATE RELEASE— The Archdiocese of Santa Fe is pleased to announce it has entered into an agreement of terms to settle its Chapter 11 reorganization case. The archdiocese wishes to express that this is very positive news and wants to thank all parties involved who worked hard to conclude this process.

“The Church takes very seriously its responsibility to see the survivors of sexual abuse are justly compensated for the suffering they have endured,” said Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe. “It is our hope that this settlement is the next step in the healing process of those who have been harmed.”

The settlement terms will be incorporated into a plan to be filed with the bankruptcy court and processed according to the applicable rules and procedures. “It is our sincere hope that all parties will see the wisdom of the settlement and help bring the bankruptcy case to a conclusion for the good of the survivors of sexual abuse, the good of the Church, and Catholics throughout the archdiocese,” said Archbishop Wester.

In the total amount of \$121.5 million, the settlement will be funded by the archdiocese, the parishes within the archdiocese, other Catholic entities, and the archdiocese’s insurance carriers. The settlement funds will be used to compensate the survivors of sexual abuse. It will not be used for archdiocesan lawyers’ fees and other expenses of the bankruptcy case, which will be paid from other funds.

In order for the parishes to focus on their continuing operations and ministries, they have collectively and voluntarily agreed to contribute significant amounts to help the archdiocese fund the settlement plan. These contributions will also help relieve them of potential individual financial burdens from any current or future lawsuits. Other parties have also agreed to contribute in return for the same protections.

The settlement includes many critical non-monetary actions, such as creating an archive of information documenting the abuses within our community, prayer services, and meetings with survivors of sexual abuse. The archdiocese hopes that these and other positive steps will help to bring healing to survivors of sexual abuse and the larger community.

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe remains vigilant and maintains the zero-tolerance policy that has now been in place for over 25 years and will continue to follow the procedures of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. These procedures include background checks before hiring employees and regular and frequent safe environment training for every employee and volunteer in the archdiocese. This is to provide a safe environment for the young people in the Catholic community.

“We in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe never cease to keep those who have been harmed by sexual abuse our first priority. We must keep our children safe; it is a responsibility we all share.”--END