



**STATEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP JOHN G. VLAZNY
ON
DOCUMENTS RELEASED FROM PERSONNEL AND OTHER RECORDS**

June 6, 2007

Claimants have asked the Archdiocese of Portland to release a number of documents from its personnel and other records as part of the process of healing and reconciliation. In response to their sincere request, I have agreed to do so. Some of these documents were previously in the public domain and some are newly public. These documents are now found on the website: <http://www.archdiocesedocuments.org>. Additional documents may be released in context of ongoing mediation. The Archdiocese hopes that the process of healing and reconciliation will be advanced by the release of these documents. The substantial financial settlements resulting from the confirmation of the Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization were a significant first step.

The information in most of these documents is from decades ago when people did not have the benefit of today's knowledge and standards. Church officials, as well as others involved, did not respond then as they might now.

Today, the Archdiocese of Portland has a modern and effective child protection program and has updated its policies to ensure the safety of children. The Archdiocese has passed successfully three outside audits of its child protection program by the national Office for the Protection of Children and Young People. The church of western Oregon remains committed to a comprehensive approach to preventing and responding to child abuse.

Any questions should be directed to Bud Bunce, Director of Communications for the Archdiocese of Portland, at (503) 233-8373.