



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

MEDIA ADVISORY

July 2, 2008

Statement on the public release of a portion of Robert White's file

Today a portion of Robert White's file has been released to the public by the plaintiffs' attorney. These documents appear to be the portion of White's file that the Archdiocese of Denver provided to the plaintiffs as part of the mediation efforts for the purpose of the plaintiffs' personal healing.

The file shows that, prior to 1981, White engaged in significant deviant behavior. The file also contains information about decisions made more than a quarter-century ago by archdiocesan officials that would not satisfy current archdiocesan policies for handling allegations of sexual abuse. Many of the decisions made by archdiocesan leadership during the years 1961 to 1981 regarding Robert White would now be very different.

As Archbishop Chaput discussed with reporters yesterday during a news conference, current archdiocesan leadership can't and doesn't justify the wrongful behavior of Robert White. Nor do current archdiocesan leaders understand why some decisions by past leadership were made that resulted in the painful experiences of some individuals and their families. For 20 years, the archdiocese has sought to better understand the nature of sexual abuse, how to treat it and how to prevent it. Current archdiocesan policies reflect a rigorous approach to handling this problem. The archdiocese does not tolerate sexual misconduct by any members of its clergy or lay staff. No priest, deacon or lay staff member with a credible allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor is allowed to minister in the archdiocese. Any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor is reported immediately to law enforcement authorities; and the accused individual is promptly removed from ministry.

Archbishop Chaput continues to express his apology on behalf of the Church for the suffering of these individuals and their families. The archdiocese remains committed to helping victims heal as well as working to prevent these tragic past experiences from being repeated. We are thankful that the victims have accepted mediation and continue to pray they find peace in this resolution.

*Archdiocese of Denver
July 2, 2008*

For information on the Archdiocese of Denver's settlement of 18 claims, a video or transcript of Archbishop Chaput's settlement announcement or more information on the current policies for preventing childhood sexual abuse and handling any allegations of childhood sexual abuse, go to www.archden.org

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