



# PRESS RELEASE

## DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE OF CLAIMS AGAINST ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY SABLAN APURON

**Hagåtña, Guam – May 7, 2025** – Today, voluntary stipulations of dismissal were filed in nine (9) United States District Court of Guam cases naming Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron, as a defendant. The cases included eight (8) allegations of sexual abuse dating back to the 1970s, and one (1) allegation of defamation.

These voluntary dismissals bring to a close nearly a decade of protracted litigation. Following publication of their allegations, the plaintiffs in these actions filed their civil lawsuits against Archbishop Apuron, the Archdiocese of Agaña, Vatican City State (Holy See) and several Capuchin Franciscan entities. The claims against Archbishop Apuron have now been voluntarily dismissed with prejudice, meaning that these plaintiffs are prohibited from bringing the same claims against him ever again.

Despite recent media reports legitimizing a blatant mischaracterization of facts, Archbishop Apuron has never offered or entered into any settlement agreement with the plaintiffs, nor has he offered any money or other consideration to any plaintiff to resolve these cases. Archbishop Apuron has only asserted his willingness to execute a stipulation of dismissal to resolve the cases, as is required under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 41(a)(1)(A)(ii) to dismiss any case at this stage of litigation.

Archbishop Apuron has always maintained his innocence in the face of these claims, and has continued to defend his good name within the process permitted under our laws. Unfortunately, due to extenuating circumstances beyond his control, the trial and discovery process was delayed partly by unwillingness of plaintiffs to comply with basic requests for information, which is the basis for the motions to compel. Archbishop Apuron's unwavering dedication to due process and justice, in asserting his innocence, is affirmed by the plaintiffs' decision to dismiss their claims today.

Archbishop Anthony Apuron continues to pray, in solitude, for the Church of Guam, his accusers, and all those victims of abuse in Guam and throughout the Church.