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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WACO, TEXAS – July 16, 2024

Callahan & King Takes Aim at Father Anthony Odiong and Austin Diocese

WACO, TEXAS – Callahan & King, advocates for survivors of clergy sexual abuse, announce the initiation of legal proceedings against Father Anthony Odiong and the Catholic Diocese of Austin on behalf of a survivor who has bravely stepped forward to seek justice for clergy sexual abuse.

Father Odiong was arrested in Florida this morning on an arrest warrant originating in Waco, Texas which states Father Odiong was found to be in possession of multiple images of child pornography. Odiong's arrest stems from a months-long investigation into allegations of serial sexual assault committed by Odiong against women whom he had a spiritual advisory role over. Those allegations involve the victimization of at least four women going back to 2007.

The lawsuit to be filed by Callahan & King details how Father Odiong used his position of trust and influence, as well as the sacrament of confession, to target, groom, and perpetrate a host of inappropriate sexual acts on women. The suit further alleges this abuse was facilitated by the Diocese of Austin, which allowed Odiong to serve as a priest, spiritual counselor, and director of a university campus ministry and did nothing to protect the community, even though they were aware of complaints made against him. In response, Callahan & King is determined to bring the full force of our expertise and dedication to secure justice for our client. Texas is among thirteen states where sex between members of the clergy and an adult they are spiritually guiding is a criminal act.

“As proponents of justice, we affirm our commitment to ensuring that no clergy abuse survivor’s voice goes unheard. It takes great courage to step forward and we extend an earnest invitation to any individual who may have been affected by the criminal conduct of Odiong, and by the Austin Diocese’s damaging response, to join us in our pursuit of justice. We stand ready to provide comprehensive legal representation and unwavering support to survivors – regardless of age, faith, gender, or orientation – throughout every step of their journey towards healing and resolution”.

For further inquiries or to speak with an attorney, please contact Robert Callahan at 254-717-8600 or callahankinglaw@gmail.com.