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Deal Brings to Close 30 Lawsuits Against Diocese

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - An 11-day civil trial against the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph has ended with a nearly \$10 million settlement covering a lawsuit filed by a former altar boy and 29 other cases of alleged sexual abuse by priests.

The Kansas City Star reports the deal announced Tuesday evening brings the amount the diocese has paid to plaintiffs in civil cases to \$17 million in the past 15 months. The settlement came as attorneys prepared to give their closing arguments on Wednesday.

The 30 lawsuits were filed from September 2010 through February 2014, involving 13 current and former priests and alleged sexual abuse from 1963 to 1987.

Twelve of those lawsuits contained allegations against Monsignor Thomas O'Brien, who died last year.

Associated Press