

Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska
1316 Peger Road
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PRESS RELEASE

Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska files for reorganization.

For Immediate Release

3/3/08

Bishop Donald J. Kettler, Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, announced today that a petition for Chapter 11 reorganization was filed Saturday, March 1, 2008, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Alaska. The case is filed under the corporate name of the civil entity, Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska ("CBNA"). Along with its petition, CBNA has filed standard first day motions to allow it to operate in the usual course of business while the Chapter 11 case is pending.

As he stated several weeks ago, Bishop Kettler is hoping that the parties can seek a consensual resolution that is both fair and just to victims of past sexual abuse while at the same time allowing the Diocese continue serving the mission of the Catholic Church in northern Alaska.

"It is through the Reorganization Case that the Diocese seeks to finally and comprehensively address the issues resulting from the abuse crisis that has caused great harm to the victims, has plunged CBNA into an even more dire financial condition, and has interfered with the Catholic Church's traditional ministries in the communities within the Diocese."

The Fairbanks Diocese is the nation's largest geographically, extending to more than 400 thousand square miles. It is also among the poorest; only 8 of its 46 parishes are financially self-sustaining.

The Diocese is represented in the proceeding by the Quarles & Brady law firm based in Arizona, with Alaska counsel Michael Mills of Anchorage.

Included with this statement is an explanation of the Chapter 11 process.

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