

## Q & A about Chapter 11

Q: Why did the Oregon Province file for protection under Chapter 11?

A: The Oregon Province now faces approximately 200 pending or threatened claims of alleged sexual misconduct that arise from conduct alleged to have occurred decades ago. The Oregon Province has made every attempt to find pastoral and healing solutions for those who have asserted claims of misconduct. However, we do not have the financial resources available to resolve all of the existing and threatened claims against us. The Oregon Province leadership believes that filing for protection under Chapter 11 will provide the best opportunity for healing and offers a framework for the Province to provide just and fair compensation for those who have suffered.

Q: What is Chapter 11?

A: Chapter 11 is a procedure under the United States Bankruptcy Code that allows an organization to reorganize its financial affairs while continuing its operations. The United States Bankruptcy Court will oversee the financial operations of the Oregon Province during the reorganization. The Jesuits will continue their ministry in the Pacific Northwest.

Q: How long will this Chapter 11 process last?

A: Many variables will impact the time the Oregon Province will remain in its Chapter 11. However, we expect the process will take between two and three years. It is in the best interest of both the Oregon Province and its creditors to minimize the length of time the Oregon Province is in Chapter 11. Our hope is to work with our creditors to achieve a just and equitable distribution of available resources.

Q: If I make a gift now, will it be used to settle cases?

A: The Oregon Province has always operated under the principle, and it will contend, that designated gifts of money and assets given to the Oregon Province can only be used to support the projects specifically designated in writing by the donor.

Q: How much money has the Province spent to date to settle abuse cases?

A: The Oregon Province has worked diligently to resolve claims of misconduct. Over the last six years, we have paid in excess of \$25 million from our own resources in settling over 200 claims. This amount does not include additional payments made by the Oregon Province insurers. In 2007 alone, the Oregon Province and its insurers paid settlements totaling \$55 million. In doing so, we have depleted our financial resources and our ability to offer financial help to other claimants.

Q: Can resources from the Oregon Province sponsored universities, high schools and parishes be used to settle claims against the Oregon Province?

A: The Oregon Province has always acted under the principle, and it will contend, that Oregon Province sponsored institutions are separately incorporated entities from the Oregon Province and operate under their own governance structure.

Q: How many members of the Oregon Province have been accused of misconduct?

A: Most of the claims alleged that the misconduct occurred 40, 50, and even 60 years ago. Out of the nearly 3,000 Jesuits who have served in the Oregon Province since 1950, less than one percent has credible allegations of misconduct made against them. Most of the accused have either died or are elderly and in failing health.

Q: What happens if there is an allegation made against a Jesuit who is currently in active ministry?

A: Any Jesuit accused of misconduct is immediately removed from public ministry. They cannot return to public ministry without an external investigation and the approval of an independent review board. In addition, a safety plan is drafted for the Jesuit, providing structured supervision in accordance to accredited standards and procedures. All safety plans are evaluated and approved by an independent review board.

Q: What safeguards are in place to ensure that this sad chapter in the Oregon Province is not repeated?

A: In 2006, the Oregon Province was accredited by Praesidium Corporation, a nationally recognized company that helps organizations to create and maintain safe environments. All Oregon Province Jesuits are required to take training classes developed and presented by Praesidium. In addition, all men who apply to join the Oregon Province are carefully screened and evaluated.

Q: Where can I get more information about the Oregon Province's situation?

A: We will post updates from time to time on the Oregon Province website. You can review the information at [www.nwjesuits.org](http://www.nwjesuits.org).

Q: How can I help?

A: The most important way you can support the Oregon Province is through your prayers. Please continue to pray for those who have been impacted. Please pray for the Jesuits you know and love, and for all who are involved in this reorganization process. Lastly, please pray for healing and reconciliation in the Oregon Province.