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IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA
) Case No. 08-00110-DMD
CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN )
ALASKA, an Alaska religious corporation ) (Chapter 11)
sole,
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Debtor.

# **NOTICE**

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING ALL SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIMS YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED

**NOTE: DECEMBER 2, 2008** 

Quarles & Brady LLP One South Church Ave. Suite 1700 Tucson, Arizona 85701-1621

# IS THE DEADLINE TO FILE PROOFS OF CLAIM

TO: ANY CREDITOR/INJURED PARTY OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA aka THE DIOCESE OF FAIRBANKS WHO ASSERTS A CLAIM BASED UPON SEXUAL ABUSE BY A PRIEST, MEMBER OF THE CLERGY, A WORKER OR OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA aka THE DIOCESE OF FAIRBANKS:

Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, an Alaska religious corporation sole, ("CBNA" or "Fairbanks Diocese") filed a Chapter 11 reorganization case on March 1, 2008, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Alaska (the "Bankruptcy Court"). Numerous individuals have asserted sexual abuse claims against the Fairbanks Diocese. Such claims allege sexual abuse by priests, and others connected with the parishes, schools or other institutions located within the geographic territory of the Fairbanks Diocese occurring as long ago as the 1950's or, possibly, earlier. Any person who believes that he or she has or may have a claim against the Fairbanks Diocese relating to sexual abuse should carefully read this notice.

YOU MAY WISH TO CONSULT AN ATTORNEY REGARDING THIS MATTER AND MAY ALSO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS BY CALLING TOLL FREE AT 1-888-570-6260 (INCLUDING ACCESS TO A YUP'IK SPEAKER).

#### FILING DEADLINE

The Bankruptcy Court entered an order (the "Bar Date Order") in the Chapter 11 case of the Fairbanks Diocese setting **DECEMBER 2, 2008** (the "Claims Bar Date") as the last date by which Proofs of Claim may be filed against the Fairbanks Diocese.

#### WHO MUST FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM

In order to preserve your rights, you must file a Proof of Claim if you were sexually abused by any member of the clergy or any other person connected with the Fairbanks Diocese, the parishes, missions, schools or other institutions within the geographic territory of the Fairbanks Diocese. For your information, attached to this Notice is a map of the territory served by the Fairbanks Diocese.

If you believe that you have a claim against the Fairbanks Diocese because you were sexually abused by any member of the clergy or any other person connected with the Fairbanks Diocese, the parishes, missions, schools or other institutions within the geographic territory of the Fairbanks Diocese, you must file a Proof of Claim. Even if you already filed a lawsuit against the Fairbanks Diocese prior to March 1, 2008, you still must file a Proof of Claim to maintain (preserve) your rights in the Fairbanks Diocese's Chapter 11 case. If you settled a claim with the Fairbanks Diocese before March 1, 2008, but you have not yet been paid or been fully paid, you must still file a Proof of Claim for the unpaid amount. If you have been fully paid, you do not need to file a claim.

You are receiving this notice because you have been identified as someone who might contend that you were sexually abused by a member of the clergy or other person connected with the Fairbanks Diocese, the parishes, missions, schools or other institutions within the geographic territory of the Fairbanks Diocese or you contend that someone associated with the Fairbanks Diocese, the parishes, missions, schools or other institutions within the geographic territory of the Fairbanks Diocese committed acts that occurred outside the geographic territory of the Fairbanks Diocese but for which you believe the Fairbanks Diocese is responsible. In all events, if you believe that the Fairbanks Diocese is responsible to you for damages you suffered because of those acts of sexual abuse, you must file a Proof of Claim.

YOU MUST COMPLETE THE CONFIDENTIAL PROOF OF CLAIM FORM WHICH IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS NOTICE IF YOU CONTEND THAT THE

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NOTICE CLAIMS BAR DATE (TORT)

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FAIRBANKS DIOCESE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGES TO YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE SEXUALLY ABUSED, WHETHER: (1) BY A PRIEST, A NUN, A WORKER, A VOLUNTEER, AN EMPLOYEE OR OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE FAIRBANKS DIOCESE, OR ASSOCIATED WITH A PARISH, SCHOOL, MISSION OR OTHER INSTITUTION WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHIC TERRITORY OF THE FAIRBANKS DIOCESE (SEE THE ATTACHED EXHIBITS); OR (2) THROUGH ACTS THAT OCCURRED BEYOND THE GEOGRAPHIC TERRITORY OF THE FAIRBANKS DIOCESE FOR WHICH YOU CLAIM THE FAIRBANKS DIOCESE IS RESPONSIBLE.

## WHO SHOULD NOT FILE A CLAIM

You should **not** file a Proof of Claim if:

- Your claim has already been paid in full.
- You hold a claim that has been allowed by an order of the Bankruptcy Court on or before the Bar Date.

YOU SHOULD NOT FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A CLAIM AGAINST THE FAIRBANKS DIOCESE.

THE FACT THAT YOU RECEIVED THIS NOTICE DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU HAVE A CLAIM AGAINST THE FAIRBANKS DIOCESE OR THAT THE FAIRBANKS DIOCESE OR THE BANKRUPTCY COURT BELIEVES THAT YOU HAVE A CLAIM.

#### **CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM**

THE DEADLINE FOR FILING PROOFS OF CLAIM IS DECEMBER 2, 2008 WHICH MEANS THAT PROOFS OF CLAIM MUST BE RECEIVED BY THAT DATE. ANY PERSON WHO HAS A CLAIM AND DOES NOT FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM FORM BY THAT DATE WILL NOT BE TREATED AS A CREDITOR FOR VOTING OR DISTRIBUTION UNDER ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND THE CLAIM WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCHARGE. FAILURE TO FILE A CLAIM WILL PREVENT YOU FROM VOTING ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION IN THIS CHAPTER 11 CASE. IN ADDITION, IF THE CLAIM IS DISCHARGED, THE CLAIMANT WILL BE FOREVER PREVENTED FROM ASSERTING HIS OR HER CLAIM AGAINST THE FAIRBANKS DIOCESE OR ITS PROPERTY AND WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY PAYMENT OR DISTRIBUTION ON SUCH CLAIM.

#### WHAT TO FILE

YOU MUST FILE A CONFIDENTIAL PROOF OF CLAIM ON THE FORM THAT ACCOMPANIES THIS NOTICE.

#### WHEN AND WHERE TO FILE

A signed original *plus one copy* of a completed Tort Claimant's Confidential Proof of Claim Form, together with any accompanying or supporting documentation, must be delivered or mailed to the address below so as to be <u>received</u> no later **December 2, 2008 by:** 

Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Alaska Attention: Jan Ostrovsky Historical Courthouse, 605 West Fourth Ave., Suite 138, Anchorage, AK 99501

(Please Note: If you are going to personally deliver the Tort Claimant's Confidential Proof of Claim to the Clerk's office or have someone deliver it on your behalf, the filing window is only open on Court days until 4:30 p.m. Alaska time, and you may need to arrive at the

Quarles & Brady LLP One South Church Ave. Suite 1700 Tucson, Arizona 85701-1621 Clerk's office by 3:00 p.m. due to wait times in order for your Proof of Claim to be timely filed).

# Proofs of Claim may not be submitted by facsimile or e-mail.

If you wish to receive acknowledgement of receipt of your Proof of Claim, include with your original Proof of Claim, (a) an additional copy of your original Proof of Claim and (b) a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Proofs of Claim must include all documentation, if any, that you have to support your claim.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The Bankruptcy Court has determined that the Proofs of Claim filed by anyone who alleges that he or she was sexually abused by a member of the clergy, a worker or other person or entity associated with the Fairbanks Diocese will remain <u>confidential</u>. Therefore, the Proof of Claim you file will not be available to the general public but will be kept confidential, except that the information will be provided, under Court-approved guidelines, to the Fairbanks Diocese and the attorneys for its insurers, the Committee of Unsecured Creditors, any Future Claims Representative appointed in the Chapter 11 case and such other persons as the Bankruptcy Court determines should have the information in order to evaluate the claim, all of whom will agree to keep the information provided by you <u>confidential</u>.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attached are the names of the schools, parishes and missions as they existed from time to time within the geographic territory of the Fairbanks Diocese as well a map of the configuration of the Fairbanks Diocese. If you need additional information regarding the schools, parishes and missions as they existed from time to time within the geographic territory of the Fairbanks Diocese or the names of clergy or other workers against whom allegations have been made in the past, you can obtain that information by calling the Fairbanks Diocese at 1-888-675-1322. If you have questions or want information about the Fairbanks Diocese reorganization, you can call the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors toll free in the United States at 1-888-570-6269 (including access to a Yup'ik speaker).

DATED June 4, 2008.

QUARLES & BRADY LLP

By: /s/ Susan G. Boswell
Susan G. Boswell (AZ Bar No. 004791)
Kasey C. Nye (AZ Bar No. 020610)

**DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP** 

By: /s/ Michael R. Mills Michael R. Mills Alaska Bar #8911074

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### List of Parishes and Schools in the geographic boundaries of the Diocese of Fairbanks

Alakanuk-Saint Ignatius Catholic Church

Aniak- Saint Theresa Catholic Church

Barrow-Saint Patrick Catholic Church

Bethel-Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Chefornak- Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

Chevak- Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Delta Junction- Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church

Emmonak-Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Fairbanks- Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Fairbanks- Sacred Heart Cathedral

Fairbanks- Saint Mark's University Parish

Fairbanks- Saint Raphael Catholic Church

Galena- Saint John Berchmans Catholic Church

Healy- Holy Mary of Guadalupe Catholic Church

Holy Cross-Holy Family Catholic Church

Hooper Bay- Little Flower of Jesus Catholic Church

Huslia- Saint Francis Regis Catholic Church

Kalskag- Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Kaltag- Saint Teresa Catholic Church

Kotlik-Saint Joseph Catholic Church

Kotzebue- Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Koyukuk- Saint Patrick Catholic Church

Little Diomede Island- Saint Jude Catholic Church

Marshall- Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

McGrath- Saint Michael Catholic Church

Mountain Village- Saint Lawrence Catholic Church

Nenana- Saint Theresa Catholic Church

Newtok- Holy Family Catholic Church

Nightmute- Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church

Nome-Saint Joseph Catholic Church

North Pole-Saint Nicholas Catholic Church

Nulato- Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church

Nunam Iqua- Saint Peter Catholic Church

Pilot Station- Saint Charles Spinola Catholic Church

Ruby- Saint Peter in Chains Catholic Church

Russian Mission- Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

Saint Marys- Church of the Nativity Catholic Church

Saint Michael - Saint Michael Catholic Church

Scammon Bay- Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

Stebbins- Saint Bernard Catholic Church

Tanana- Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

Teller- Saint Ann Catholic Church

Tok- Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Toksook Bay- Saint Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church

Tununak- Saint Joseph Catholic Church

Unalakleet- Church of the Holy Angels Catholic Church

Immaculate Conception Elementary School

Monroe Junior/Senior High School

Delta Junction

Dillingham

Glenallen Parish

Copper Valley School (boarding 9-12)



