



NEWS RELEASE

Issued Nov. 3, 2022

Contact: Deacon Ed Giblin

585.328.3228, x 1237

communications@dor.org

Diocese Files Proposed Restructuring Support Agreement with U.S. Bankruptcy Court

Seeks Formation of a Trust to Compensate Survivors of Sexual Abuse

Rochester, NY – The Diocese of Rochester has filed a motion seeking approval by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of New York of a Restructuring Support Agreement (“RSA”).

The RSA represents a comprehensive settlement with the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in the case, which, if approved by the Bankruptcy Court, will pave the way for the Diocese to emerge from Chapter 11. Among other things, the plan is expected to (a) establish a trust for the benefit of survivors of sexual abuse, (b) provide for participation by the Diocese, its parishes and related Catholic entities in the amount of \$55 million to compensate survivors of sexual abuse, and (c) provide for potential additional recoveries for the benefit of survivors from insurance issued to the Diocese, its parishes and other related Catholic entities.

“We believe that this Restructuring Support Agreement represents the fairest approach for the survivors and most viable path forward for the Diocese and its related Catholic entities to continue our shared mission of healing and reconciliation.”

*~Bishop Matano
Letter to the Faithful*

If the RSA is approved by the Bankruptcy Court, the Diocese will then present to the Court with the full support of the Committee a plan of reorganization that tracks its terms. Following approval by the Bankruptcy Court of the general terms of the RSA, creditors and other parties in interest will be asked to vote on the plan and the Diocese will then seek final approval from the Court.

“We believe that this Restructuring Support Agreement represents the fairest approach for the survivors and most viable path forward for the Diocese and its related Catholic entities to continue our shared mission of healing and reconciliation,” Bishop Salvatore R. Matano said. “Once again, while I know my words may seem hollow, simply repeating a rehearsed apology, I renew with sincerity my deep apology to the survivors of sexual abuse. The history of sexual abuse of children in our Church has caused tremendous pain, hardship, alienation, and understandable anger. It has seriously impacted survivors, their families, our priests and others in diocesan ministries who had no part in these egregious acts. This chapter in the life of our Church has also impacted everyone who has felt their own faith shaken by those who violated a sacred trust to protect the vulnerable and live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ.”

-more-

More than 450 sexual abuse claims have been filed in this case. The claims relate to instances of abuse that occurred many years ago and even decades before the Chapter 11 case was filed.

For over 20 years, the Diocese has closely followed the Safe Environment protocols established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in its *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* to ensure the safety of our children and to protect them from harm, including the establishment of an independent review board in 1993. Independent auditors have repeatedly found the Diocese to be in compliance with each annual review. The Diocese is not aware of any incidents of sexual abuse of a minor since 2006.

The Bankruptcy Court will consider the Diocese's filing and proposed Restructuring Support Agreement. If the Court agrees with the approach to addressing these claims, creditors and other parties of interest will be asked to vote on the plan and the Diocese will ask the Court to approve it.

It is the Diocese's hope that it can complete the steps necessary and ultimately emerge from Chapter 11 sometime mid-summer to early fall 2023, as this will mark the fourth year of Bankruptcy which has been so painful for all parties concerned, especially the survivors.

A detailed FAQ on today's announcement can be accessed at www.dor.org, along with Bishop Matano's letter to the faithful and other key resources.

-end-