



ARCHDIOCESE
OF
SAINT PAUL &
MINNEAPOLIS

OFFICE OF THE APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR

March 30, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“Do not be afraid.” Those words of wisdom appear in Sacred Scripture more than 350 times and were even uttered by our Lord Himself on numerous occasions when His followers were facing adversity. It is clear that they were important to Jesus, and still are to us today. They are particularly welcome in these days as lawyers for those who may have been sexually abused by priests in the past are preparing to file lawsuits against dozens of local parishes where suspected abuse took place.

The lawsuits are expected to be filed against the parishes by mid-May, given that the Minnesota Child Victims Act’s three-year lifting of the statute of limitations for cases of child sexual abuse ends on May 25, 2016. Most of the cases arise out of misconduct that allegedly occurred many years ago – they are not new allegations of abuse. The anticipated filing is a normal part of the litigation process, which we have expected since filing for Reorganization in January of 2015, and that is why I am writing to you before the suits are filed.

How are we addressing this situation? Attorneys representing the Archdiocese and attorneys representing the parishes are working very hard to resolve the cases as part of the ongoing proceedings in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. All parties involved – including dozens of insurance carriers that issued policies over the past six decades – are participating in mediation with the hope of settling the more than 400 sexual abuse claims that have been brought against the Archdiocese and that presumably will soon be filed against parishes arising from the same facts.

Be assured that your pastor and parish leaders are working with Archdiocesan staff to keep you informed and updated on any developments. It seems that the most important thing we can do now is to pray for a just resolution to these claims and for all of those involved. In these first days of the Easter Season, I ask for your prayers and support for all victims of sexual abuse and their families.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Apostolic Administrator & Archbishop-Designate
Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis