



CHURCH AND SCHOOLS OF SAINT DOMINIC

93 Anstice Street • Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Dear Parishioners,

Many of you are aware that the Diocese of Rockville Centre has been going through a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy process since October 2020 as a result of the New York State Legislature's passage of the Child Victims Act in 2019, which allowed lawsuits for historical accusations of child sexual abuse, regardless of how many years or decades ago the alleged abuse took place. The number of lawsuits that were brought against the Diocese, our parishes, schools and other ministries made it impossible to equitably compensate victim-survivors with meritorious claims through court trials. Trials would have resulted in the first survivors in line with claims receiving compensation and the rest receiving little or nothing.

In the face of that, our Diocese decided that bankruptcy offered the possibility of equitable compensation and some measure of healing for survivors, while allowing the Church and parishes to continue their mission. The Diocese, as well as every parish and ministry, made a contribution to the settlement. To resolve all past claims of abuse of minors and to secure the future of the Church's ministries throughout Long Island, every parish needed to participate in the process to ensure that no historical claims could place parishes or schools at risk in the future.

Our Parish contributed \$251,000 to the settlement. These funds come from a money market that was not funded by parishioner donations but that we had been saving for the purpose of cash flow should we enter another economic downturn. We know that the thought of contributing to a settlement can cause anger, confusion and resentment. "Why is our parish paying anything? This was not our fault."

It may help if you were to understand that the cost of bringing the 8 current (not to mention any potential future historical cases) against our Parish to trials, if judgments were rendered, would devastate Saint Dominic.

We know that the horrific scandal of child abuse was not caused by us, but the 2019 law subjected us to lawsuits based upon claims from decades ago, long before any of the current priests or staff members arrived here and, in fact, before most of our current parishioners lived within the parish.

By participating in the bankruptcy process, we have helped to resolve all claims and to secure the future of our Parish. As a result, historical lawsuits cannot be brought against Saint Dominic.

Victim survivors of child abuse need our respect, our prayers, and our pastoral support. This can only have been a terribly painful time for them and their families, and it is hoped that this settlement might offer some sense of healing.

Should anyone wish to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me.

In service of Him with you,