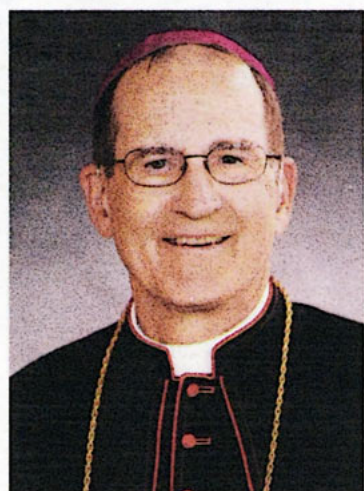


Reorganization Update



by Bishop John M. LeVoir

Reorganization Update

It has been over six months since the Diocese of New Ulm began a financial reorganization process under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. There have been many changes in that time, as we continue working toward our goal of fairly compensating sexual abuse victims and survivors, while continuing the important ministries of the diocese and the good work of the Church.

As part of the financial reorganization, a deadline was set by the court for creditors to file a proof of claim against the Diocese of New Ulm. Before a creditor can be financially compensated, a proof of claim must be filed with the court. The deadline of July 10, 2017, to file such a claim has passed.

Shortly after filing for financial reorganization, the diocese publicized the proof of claim deadline through advertising in select newspapers within the fifteen counties the diocese serves, as well as in regional Minnesota newspapers and select national publications. Parishes within the diocese also were asked to publish the proof of claim deadline notice in their bulletins as well as to post it at church buildings.

There are 104 proofs of claim that have been filed against the diocese for sexual abuse by clergy. Financial reorganization allows the diocese to resolve all these claims collectively rather than one at a time. A resolution to these claims is being overseen by the federal bankruptcy court in Minneapolis.

Many Questions, But Few Answers

Since the filing for financial reorganization on March 3, 2017, there are many questions being asked throughout the diocese. Will property that the diocese owns need to be sold? In the end, what will be the total amount necessary to compensate fairly the victims and survivors? How long will the financial reorganization process take?

Because the diocese filed for financial reorganization, these decisions will be made in the federal bankruptcy court.

Consequently, until decisions have been made by the court, the answers to these questions remain open.

Throughout the financial reorganization process, updates will be posted on the diocesan website, www.dnu.org. Here you may find information to some of the questions you currently have, or you can contact the diocesan Office of Communications, 507-233-5332, for assistance.

Continuing the Good Work of the Church

As a Church family, we are all called to be missionary disciples and to carry out the mandate of Jesus Christ to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Missionary discipleship begins in Baptism, is nourished with the Holy Eucharist, and manifests itself in serving our brothers and sisters through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

The diocese's role in carrying on the good work of the Church would be very difficult without the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices of all of the diocesan staff.

However, financial reorganization required a reduction in diocesan staff. Those who are no longer employed for the diocese were valuable members of the staff, each highly dedicated to their

work. Their presence is greatly missed. Please join me in praying for these men and women.

As we continue to move forward, remaining diocesan staff are providing essential services to the faithful of the diocese, parishes, Catholic schools, and beyond. I am heartened to see how they have pulled together to meet the challenges at hand.

Initial steps have been taken to establish a "team approach" among the offices at the Pastoral Center. For example, the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, which is comprised of the Offices of Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation, Catholic Schools, and Youth and Young Adult Ministry, will be supporting each other in various programming that is essential to the New Evangelization called for by Pope Francis.

There has been a change in names of staff members to contact for assistance in certain diocesan offices because of staff reassignments. For a complete listing of diocesan offices and staff, visit the diocesan website, www.dnu.org.

Change in The Prairie Catholic Publication Schedule

The *Prairie Catholic* readers will notice another change as the diocese works to reduce costs. Previously published monthly

ten times a year, September-June, the newspaper will be reduced to seven issues. This means *The Prairie Catholic* will arrive in homes every six weeks beginning with this September issue.

With God All Things are Possible

As the reorganization process continues through the court, I hope we are able to resolve the claims as promptly as possible. Not only for the good of our local Church, but most importantly for the healing of abuse victims and survivors.

It is so important to continue praying for those who have been sexually abused by clergy. I sincerely apologize for the abuse that has led to our brothers' and sisters' profound suffering.

I ask Jesus Christ to continue to guide the diocese in healing the divisions caused by clergy sexual abuse. I ask Our Lord to bring the goods of reconciliation and unity. I also ask for the continued intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the victims and survivors, and for the diocese.

As we seek just financial compensation for these victims and survivors of childhood sexual abuse, let us pray for hope, healing, and peace.

Bishop LeVoir's September and October calendar can be found at www.dnu.org/calendar/.

THE PRAIRIE CATHOLIC

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US bishops create Ad Hoc Committee against racism

by Matt Hadro
Catholic News Agency

WASHINGTON D.C. –

In the wake of the recent white nationalist rallies in Charlottesville, the U.S. bishops have announced that they are establishing a new Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. "Recent events have exposed the extent to which the sin of racism continues to inflict our nation," said Cardinal DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, on Wednesday, Aug. 23.

"Marches by hate groups such as the KKK and Neo-Nazis are outrageous to the sensible mind and directly challenge the dignity of human life. It is time for us to recommit ourselves to eradicating racism," he said in his statement, "In His Image," upon the establishment of the committee. Bishop George V. Murry, SJ, of Youngstown, Ohio, will chair the

new committee, which will focus on galvanizing the Church and society to fight the evil of racism and minister to its victims. It will also focus on confronting racism within the Church.

In a press conference on the new committee, Bishop Murry described racism as the "original sin" of the United States, and a problem that remains "cancerous" for the country even today.

"In recent years, our divisions have worsened. Hatred is more evident, and becoming more mainstream," he said. "It has targeted African-Americans and other people of color, Jewish people, immigrants, and others. Our ability to face our problems together, with a common aim, has waned."

"For those who have been watching even with passing interest, it should be plain to see why we need a concerted effort at this moment. The times demand

it. The Gospel demands it," he said.

The new committee will work together with other committees at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Murry said, to promote the Church's message of human dignity against racism at the local level.

The announcement of the new Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism is the bishops' latest step in a

series of efforts to fight racism and injustice in all their forms.

The U.S. bishops' conference is already planning a new letter on racism to be released in 2018. In 1979, the bishops issued a pastoral letter on racism titled "Brothers and Sisters to Us," in which they addressed many themes, but the overall message then as today was "racism is a sin."

Collection for hurricane victims

Parishes in the Diocese of New Ulm will take a special collection Sept. 16-17 to help Hurricane Harvey victims. The diocesan Office of Social Concerns, together with Catholic Charities of the diocese, announced the plan Aug. 31 to have a second collection at weekend Masses, which will go to Catholic Charities USA, the official domestic relief agency of the Church in the United States. Catholic Charities USA has been working to aid the people of eastern Texas and Louisiana who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey, which struck the region in late August. This national second collection will offer pastoral and recovery help for dioceses affected by the hurricane.