



## THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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### STATEMENT

**DATE:** March 10, 2020

**RE:** DRVC Response to News12 Story on SNAP Press Conference

**FROM:** Sean P. Dolan, Director of Communications

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On March 10th, News 12 reported that attorney Mitchell Garabedian stated in response to an incident that occurred when Bishop John Barres was bishop of Allentown, Pennsylvania that "there is no reason that Bishop Barres should not have just gone to the police when he first learned of these accusations instead of practicing a cover-up."

Mr. Garabedian is ill informed. There was no "cover up." Bishop Barres and the Allentown diocese reported the allegations to law enforcement the same day they received them. Allentown's attorney stayed in close contact with law enforcement until they determined that the allegation was "unfounded." Then, after the law enforcement investigation was complete, the Allentown Diocese launched its own, separate, investigation, which determined that the allegation was unsubstantiated. The lay review board then looked at the full record and determined that the priest should be put back in ministry.

There was no "cover up" much less a basis for Mr. Garabedian's other defamatory comments. Instead Bishop Barres and the Diocese of Allentown did exactly what Mr. Garabedian claims they should have done, as the documentary evidence produced by the Allentown diocese shows. False statements such as Mr. Garabedian's have no place in public discourse.