



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

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STATEMENT

DATE: October 23, 2019

RE: Garabedian filings

FROM: Sean P. Dolan, Director of Communications

The defendants in these lawsuits will work within the bounds of applicable New York state law regarding the adjudication of the allegations, which date back to 1961 and involve alleged acts of persons who died many years ago and thus are unable to defend themselves. The allegations were promptly reported to law enforcement when they were first made known to the Diocese of Rockville Centre beginning in February 2019.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre is fully committed to the protection of minors, and undergoes an annual independent audit to evaluate compliance with required child protection practices. Since the inception of audit reviews in 2003, this Diocese has participated in 14 audits (conducted by The Gavin Group and StoneBridge Business Partners) and has been found to be in compliance with standards as outlined in the Charter for the Protection of Children & Young People for each audit period.

For over 15 years, our Child Victims Assistance program has strengthened our efforts toward child protection, abuse prevention and pastoral outreach to survivors. Our dedicated hotline, along with our procedures and policies for protecting children are clearly posted on our website. We continue to review our programs and protocols to ensure that we are maintaining the best practices.

In 2017, the Diocese initiated the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program (IRCP) to offer an opportunity for some measure of healing and justice to those who were abused by diocesan clergy. To date, almost 400 people have filed claims with our IRCP. A strong majority of claimants – approximately 70 percent - have accepted compensation totaling over \$50 million, with many claims still being processed. This program is currently ongoing.

The Diocese of Rockville Centre is cooperating fully with all law enforcement, including the district attorneys and the ongoing investigation by the Attorney General.