

May 1, 2020

Brothers and Sisters of St. Rita Catholic Church:

As you may have heard last night or today, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans is filing for Chapter 11 Reorganization under the bankruptcy code today. This was a decision that was made after much discernment by Archbishop Aymond and the administration of the archdiocese and with great pain and heartache.

In his meeting with the priest to inform us of this decision, he asked that we inform you, the faithful, that this will in no way affect the parishes of the archdiocese. St. Rita Catholic Church and School will continue to function exactly as it did before. Masses will continue to be celebrated. Ministries will continue to meet.

Providing a well-rounded Catholic education is a top priority for our school and along with the Archdiocese, we renew our commitment to achieving excellence for our current students and for future generations. The daily operations of the ministry of Catholic education will not be affected by the filing for Reorganization under Chapter 11. What this will do is allow the archdiocese to restructure and renew its ability to minister to the people of the archdiocese.

The causes of this situation are threefold: 1) an inability to meet the annual diocesan budget, 2) the growing costs of lawsuits associated with the tragic sex abuse scandal, and 3) the decrease of funds due to the Coronavirus pandemic as parishes and ministries of the archdiocese have had to temporarily cease operations.

The archbishop also asked that we reiterate that NO money collected by the archdiocese that comes from the parishes has been, is now, or ever will be used to settle lawsuits associated with the sex abuse scandals. Those monies are used solely to run the administrative offices of the archdiocese which provide support and resources to the parishes so that they can better minister to their people. That has been the archbishop's promise from the beginning and he remains firmly committed to keeping that promise.

What I ask for from all of you is to pray in a special way in solidarity for the Archdiocese of New Orleans and for Archbishop Gregory Aymond during this time.

Also please watch this video address from Archbishop Aymond (<https://youtu.be/EtGLv5LBGJE>) and go to nolacatholic.org/renew for more information.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Steven V. Bruno



St. Rita Church

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