

For Immediate Release to the Press

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Statement from the Diocese of Stockton

Following a three-month period of notifying potential claimants, the Diocese of Stockton has received 34 claims of sexual abuse. No priest in active ministry was identified in these abuse claims. These claims are filed with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and will now be evaluated by a court-appointed committee of creditors and the Diocese.

The filings followed a period of extensive outreach by the Diocese to ensure all potential claimants were aware of the August 15th deadline for submitting sexual abuse claims to the court. The Diocese published notices in more than two-dozen national, regional and local newspapers, and mailed notices to every household on local parish and Catholic school mailing lists.

By order of the Court, all information about these claims is confidential.

Over the next months, the Diocese will work with the creditors' committee to evaluate the claims and exchange information. This process is a standard feature of bankruptcy cases and is designed to allow the Diocese and its creditors to negotiate a reorganization plan that resolves outstanding claims as fairly as possible, while allowing the Diocese to continue the ministries and services it provides to local communities.

The reorganization process is continuing on schedule. We anticipate the parties will return to mediation sometime later this year. The Diocese will continue to provide updates about the process on its website, as well as post all documents approved by the court for public access on the website listed below.

To view the filings in this case, visit <http://www.kccllc.net/stocktondiocese>. From this page, click "Court Documents" in the upper left corner to view all documents filed with the court.