



James Faluszczyk
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***** Press Release *****

Former Priest and Victim Advocate Claims Diocese of Buffalo IRCP an Inadequate Attempt to Placate Victims of Clergy Sex Abuse

James Faluszczyk, himself a victim of abuse by a priest, and still feeling called to the priesthood, left active ministry because the Church ignored his claims.

BUFFALO, NY. Wednesday, May 29, 2019 – Working with several victims of clergy sex abuse with claims against the Diocese of Buffalo, I am aware of the inadequacies of the diocesan Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program to offer victims an opportunity for redress and healing.

While some victims have approached the program in order to avoid a longer and potentially public court process, and because some victims are in a position to require more immediate compensation for their trauma, the Diocese of Buffalo is incorrect in stating that their response to this tragedy is somehow a model for others or that it is in any objective way sufficient. The fund was administered under the shadow of a federal subpoena. A federal grand jury is conducting an investigation of the administration of the program by two retired judges appointed by the Diocese of Buffalo.

Self-selected administrators and the involvement of diocesan employees in the IRCP process underline the fact that this program was anything but independent.

The fund was only open to those who had approached the Diocese of Buffalo before March 1, 2018, leaving out anyone who sought redress from the diocese after that date.

The program denied more than half of those who applied for the program, many because they did not know about the program and were simply too late.

Information on abuser-priests provided to the diocese by claimants is a one-way street. While the Diocese of Buffalo gathers information on the history of its abuser- priests, it is not sharing information gained with the community.

To date, the Diocese of Buffalo has paid \$17.5 million in claims, after selling only two prime properties worth \$2.8 million. Since the Diocese of Buffalo has acknowledged that they received many more abuse complaints than they expected, and since they do not intend to offer an additional phase of the IRC program, it is reasonable to surmise that the diocese is actively protecting itself from future claims that will come with the inauguration of the New York Child Victims Act in August.

CONTACTS:

James G. Faluszczyk . Email: jim@faluszczyk.com

Cell: 716/424-5417

William H. Mack, Esq Phillips & Paolicelli, LLP 747 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017 Email: wmack@p2law.com Phone: 212/388-5100