

26 August, 2026

Dear Parishioners of St. Rita, St. Cecilia, and St. Mary,

I write today to share an important update regarding our participation in the Archdiocesan bankruptcy settlement and to address some of the questions that have understandably arisen. After many months of careful consultation, prayer, and collaboration, I am grateful to let you know that all three of our parishes have now fulfilled the financial contribution required of us as part of the global settlement.

For **St. Rita Parish**, the contribution of **\$100,000** was made primarily from the parish's savings account overseen by the Capital Assets Support Corporation (CASC) of the Archdiocese. For **St. Cecilia Parish**, the contribution of **\$30,000** came from the parish's regular operating account. For **St. Mary Parish**, the contribution of **\$20,000** was drawn from the parish's Preservation Fund.

In each parish, the Finance Council met, reviewed the situation with great care, and formally approved the use of these funds. I am deeply grateful for their diligence, prudence, and willingness to shoulder this responsibility on behalf of our communities.

Many parishioners have expressed anger, frustration, and deep disappointment about the financial contributions required of us—and rightly so. These feelings are real and understandable. It is painful to see parish resources used to address failures that occurred long before any of us were here.

A difficult truth must be acknowledged: none of the clergy involved in the 541 cases we are addressing are still alive. But those who were harmed are still living, still carrying wounds, still struggling. Their suffering did not end when those responsible died. Our participation in this settlement is, in part, an act of solidarity with them—an acknowledgment that the Church must take responsibility even when the individuals involved are no longer here to do so themselves.

This is not simply a financial obligation. It is a moral responsibility rooted in our faith. We believe in the dignity of every person, in justice, and in the healing power of reconciliation. While no financial settlement can erase the pain survivors endured, our participation is a concrete expression of our commitment to acknowledging their suffering and helping to bring a measure of justice and healing.

At the same time, we have a fiduciary responsibility to safeguard the future of our parish communities. The ministries we cherish, the worship we share, the faith formation of our children, our outreach to those in need, and the spiritual home we provide for countless families all depend on the stability and strength of our parishes.

By contributing to this settlement, we help resolve a painful chapter in the life of the Church and create a stronger foundation upon which future generations can build. It is an act of stewardship—on behalf of those who suffered in the past and those who will depend on the Church's ministries in the years to come.

Some have asked how the assessment amounts were determined. The process involved financial experts, detailed financial reviews, consultation with experienced pastors, and careful attention to the unique circumstances of each parish and school. Using an ability-to-pay framework, the assessments also considered pastoral needs, operational realities, available resources, and long-term sustainability. Great effort was made to ensure that the financial burden was shared fairly and equitably across the local Catholic community.

Others have asked how much the Archdiocese itself is contributing. The Archdiocese has indeed carried a significant share of this burden, along with other Catholic entities. The proposed \$395 million global settlement includes **\$125 million from the Archdiocese** (through liquid assets and debt financing), **\$150 million from parishes and parish schools**, and **\$120 million from other Catholic entities**.

Let me conclude by thanking each of you for your patience, your trust, and your steadfast commitment to our parish communities during this challenging period. These contributions were significant, and yet they were made possible because of your ongoing generosity, your faith, and your love for the Church.

We now move forward—humbled by the past, committed to healing, and determined to protect the future of our ministries at St. Rita, St. Cecilia, and St. Mary.

Please be assured of my prayers for you. And please continue to pray for all survivors of abuse, for our Archdiocese, and for the renewal of our Church.

With gratitude and hope in Christ,



Father Sebastine Bula, V.C.
Pastor