

Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany
What You Need to Know about the Joint Settlement

Posted: March 27, 2026

What was announced on March 27, 2026?

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany and the Official Committee of Tort Claimants in our Chapter 11 reorganization have reached agreement on the contribution to be made by the Catholic Family which includes the Diocese of Albany, its parishes, and other Catholic entities. Both the Diocesan Finance Council and the College of Consultors have given their assent to this action. The amount of the contribution will be \$148 million.

How much will parishes contribute?

Collectively, the parishes in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany will contribute \$50 million, primarily from parish savings. Fr. Jim Walsh, Chair of the Parish Steering Committee, and Deacon Gregg Wilbur, Diocesan CFO are meeting with parishes to discuss the individual amount each parish will be expected to contribute. Those meetings are underway and will conclude after Easter.

Does the amount include the Insurance Carrier contributions?

No. This settlement between the Tort Committee and the Diocese, parishes, and other entities affiliated with the Diocese does not include a contribution from several of the insurance companies that provided coverage to the Diocese. The Diocese and the Tort Committee will continue to work in earnest with the mediators appointed to the bankruptcy case to negotiate with the insurance carriers who are involved in this case with the goal of achieving a global settlement. In Diocesan bankruptcy cases, it is typical for Church insurers to contribute a significant portion of the global settlement amount paid to survivors of abuse.

What does this mean for St. Clare's pensioners?

Work remains to be done to address the claims of the St. Clare's pensioners. As many know, a jury verdict concluded that the Diocese of Albany had no historic fiduciary responsibility for St. Clare's Hospital or its pension plan and, therefore, the Diocese of Albany was deemed not directly responsible for the losses incurred by the pension plan. The court's decision finding the diocese responsible for the acts of others in managing the pension fund is under appeal and we await the court's decision.

What will be the average settlement for each survivor?

That is impossible to tell because anticipated insurance settlements will fund a substantial portion of the eventual package. Once the total number is known there is a separate process involving independent parties who will help to determine what each survivor will receive.

What are the next steps?

This is the first step to our reorganization. We are continuing to develop a plan that will lead us out of Chapter 11. Work continues on important issues that will be included in the final plan, including agreements on child protection protocols that will be aimed at strengthening the protocols already in place in our Diocese.

When could survivors see the settlement money?

When the entire financial package comes together, there will be a confirmation process that has taken a considerable amount of time in other dioceses that emerge from bankruptcy. Only after confirmation will the plan distribute the awards to the victims. The final plan will establish an independent claims reviewer who will review the claims and determine payments to individual survivors. The Diocese will have no role in that.

With whom should the information be shared?

It is recommended that the joint release and the bishop's letter be shared with parishioners as soon as possible. The letter can be read at Mass this weekend, posted with the joint release on a parish website, copies can be made and left in the back of church, or they can be emailed to parishioners if you are set up to do so.

How and when do parishes submit their portion?

Once Fr Jim Walsh, Chair of the Parish Steering Committee, and Deacon Gregg Wilbur, Diocesan CFO meet with your parish to share the amount requested, the amount of the parish contribution should be moved into a bank account or very low risk investment (such as a money market account) so that the payment may be made when needed. Details regarding when and how payments toward the settlement will be made are still being worked out.

Is there an appeal process for the amount the Parish Steering Committee is asking a parish to contribute?

Yes. Appeals should be made directly to Bishop Mark.

