



January 2018 Update On Archdiocesan Bankruptcy

Almost three years ago the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis filed for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. As you might imagine, the various legal issues surrounding claims against the archdiocese itself, parishes, and many other related institutions and individuals are quite complex.

Ideally in a bankruptcy case, all parties come to an agreement on a settlement plan. When that didn't happen, in the past year or so two separate plans to resolve all claims were presented to the court, one by the archdiocese and one by a committee representing many people having claims in this case. In essence, the parties were saying that they were able to reach a settlement through mediation and wanted the bankruptcy court to force their plan on all involved.

On December 28, 2017, the court denied or rejected both plans and ordered the parties back to mediation. Again, the legal issues involved are complicated. The judge did write a powerful memo reminding all involved that this bankruptcy case affects many people. He noted that eight of the people filing claims of having suffered sexual abuse have died since this case began. He wondered how many more will die while the parties involved continue to argue their various positions and how much longer the many others who suffered abuse will have to wait for fair compensation for their suffering. He ordered the archdiocese, parishes, insurance companies, those having claims and all lawyers back to mediation.

While many of the court documents can be hard for non-lawyers to understand, the judge's words in his latest memo are very compelling, and you can click on the link [here](#) to read it in detail. You can access many other documents by going to the archdiocesan website www.archspm.org and clicking on the link for Archdiocesan Reorganization. Above all, I ask for your continued prayers for all victims of sexual abuse.

Fr. Tom