

D I O C E S E  
of NEW ULM

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**Office of the Bishop**

June 26, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Diocese of New Ulm has reached a settlement with victims and survivors of clergy sexual abuse. The \$34,000,000 settlement announced today represents years of respectful negotiations with those representing victims and survivors in order to come to a fair resolution of claims while continuing essential Church ministry. I believe the settlement agreement we have reached is a fair one.

I am deeply grateful to victims and survivors who courageously came forward to raise awareness about clergy sexual abuse and to work to ensure others will not have to suffer the wounds they sustained and the pain they endured. Victims and survivors are owed just compensation for the harm they have suffered by those entrusted with serving them. Their coming forward to share their stories and seek justice from the Church that failed them took great courage. I again apologize to them on behalf of the Church. I hope that the settlement agreement we have reached together helps victims and survivors on their healing journey.

I want to thank local Catholics for your ongoing prayers for a just resolution for victims and survivors of clergy sexual abuse. Your prayers have helped us in this process and I believe they will help those harmed as they continue to seek healing. I am also very grateful for the dedication of local Catholics to ensuring a safe environment in Church ministry. This includes your support of safe environment measures we have had in place for the past 15 years for all clergy, diocesan, parish and Catholic school employees and church volunteers who interact with children and young people.

The settlement is funded through insurance coverage, cash and property contributions from the diocese and contributions from all parishes within the Diocese. The cash and property contributions toward the settlement are only possible because of the generosity of local Catholics. I am grateful to those parishes that contributed even though they were not facing claims themselves. Parish leaders did this because they recognized that reaching a fair settlement for those harmed was important and necessary.

I am also thankful for the wisdom of Judge Kressel, the diligence of Judge Zive, and the hard work of all those who dedicated themselves over the past two years to ensure a fair resolution.

Please continue to pray for hope, healing and peace as we take the final steps to bring closure to this process. And please pray that there will be no more sexual abuse.

In Christ,

  
+ *John M. LeVoir*

The Most Reverend John M. LeVoir  
Bishop of New Ulm

