

RESPONSE TO ANDERSON'S ACCUSATIONS

August 24, 2018

At Mr. Davis' request, Bishop Sirba testified under oath 18 month ago on the issue of any employment contract with Father Graham. Contrary to Mr. Anderson's office's assertion, Bishop Sirba did not refuse to testify at trial. Rather, the attorney for Mr. Davis demanded the Bishop appear at trial on unreasonably short notice, which did not allow adequate time for Bishop Sirba to adjust his schedule. The Court agreed and excused Bishop from having to appear at trial.

STATEMENT FROM THE DIOCESE OF DULUTH

August 22, 2018

Bishop Sirba and the Diocese of Duluth continue to be committed to transparency and healing for the survivors of priest abuse. Files of all credibly accused priests have been made available to Mr. Anderson and counseling assistance has been offered to all victims who wish to avail themselves of such assistance. The Diocese has voluntarily published the names of all credibly accused priests, has investigated all claims of priest abuse, and has taken action to remove from active ministry all priests who have been found to be credibly accused. The Diocese is and has been working through the bankruptcy process to maximize the funds available to compensate the victims of sexual abuse, and Bishop Sirba has offered to personally meet with the victims to hear firsthand the pain caused to them by such abuse.

The mischaracterization of the Diocese's efforts to date is not helpful to achieving the common goal of the Diocese and all others involved in obtaining justice for the victims and the protection of our children.