

## **OUR LADY OF CHARITY ANNOUNCEMENT OF PARISH SETTLEMENT**

AT A MEETING THIS PAST WEDNESDAY OUR CATHOLIC FAMILY OF SOUTH BUFFALO AND THE FIRST WARD'S CLERGY, TRUSTEES, FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS, B AND BUSINESS MANAGER WERE NOTIFIED OF THE AMOUNT OUR PARISHES ARE BEING REQUIRED TO DONATE TO THE SETTLEMENT FOR THE **891** CLAIMS FROM THE TRAGIC HISTORY OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN OUR DIOCESE.

AFTER A VERY LONG TIME OF MEDIATION WITH THE ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING THE DIOCESE AND PARISHES WITH THOSE REPRESENTING THE VICTIM-SURVIVORS OF ABUSE, A SETTLEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS REACHED IN APRIL IN THE AMOUNT OF **150** MILLION DOLLARS.

BEFORE WE SHARE ANY MORE NUMBERS, WE REMIND YOU THAT EVERY PARISH IN THE DIOCESE IS ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS SETTLEMENT. THE BUFFALO **DIOCESE OF BUFFALO** IS CONTRIBUTING **30 MILLION** FROM SAVINGS, INVESTMENTS AND THE SALE OF PROPERTIES.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT PARISHES WILL DONATE: **110** MILLION. BROKEN DOWN THAT'S **80** MILLION FROM SAVINGS, INVESTMENTS AND UNRESTRICTED FUNDS WITH AN EXPECTED **30** MILLION FROM REAL ESTATE SALES. OTHER CATHOLIC ENTITIES (CATHOLIC CHARITIES, CATHOLIC HEALTH SYSTEM CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, ETC) WILL GIVE **10 MILLION**.

THE AMOUNTS OF PARISH DONATIONS ARE BASED ON ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED FROM EACH PARISH, AND THE MONIES ARE TO BE CONTRIBUTED, SIMILARLY, FROM OUR SAVINGS AND NON-RESTRICTED FUNDS IN INVESTMENTS. SO, WE DO HAVE THIS MONEY.

SURELY WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE EXPRESSION OF SAVINGS FOR A "RAINY DAY." THIS IS INDEED AN EXTREMELY RAINY DAY. SO, OUR SOUTH BUFFALO FAMILY OF FIVE PARISHES ARE TO CONTRIBUTE A TOTAL OF **\$ 1,216,229.00**.

**OUR LADY OF CHARITY'S** AMOUNT IS **\$ 299,388.00**

BECAUSE WE HAVE THESE FUNDS WE DO NOT NEED TO RAISE THEM. THAT AMOUNT IS, OF, COURSE DIFFICULT TO HEAR. IT'S NATURAL AND EXPECTED THAT PEOPLE WILL BE UPSET. THE INITIAL RESPONSE IS THAT THIS IS "NOT FAIR." THAT IS TRUE. BUT GOD IS NOT "FAIR" ...HE'S **MORE THAN** FAIR...HE'S MERCIFUL. MERCY GOES BEYOND JUSTICE. THIS IS A SACRIFICIAL ACT OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY

TOWARD THOSE WOUNDED SOULS WHO LIVES WERE SHATTERED BY ABUSE. IT CANNOT ERASE THEIR PAIN BUT WILL BE A GESTURE OF CARE AND OUR ACKNOWLEDGING OUR ONENESS WITH THEM IN CHRIST WHO IS ALWAYS OUR SOURCE OF HOPE AND HEALING.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FOR OUR PARISHES GOING FORWARD. CONTRIBUTING TO THIS SETTLEMENT GUARANTEES UNDER CHAPTER 11 GUIDELINES FUTURE PROTECTION OF THE PARISHES FROM ANY FUTURE CLAIMS FOR ABUSE ALLEGED BEFORE 2022. THAT WAS WHEN NEW YORK STATE CLOSED THE "WINDOW" REGARDING THE STATUE OF LIMITATIONS.

ALSO, **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS SINCE LAST AUGUST 31 AND TODAY'S COLLECTION** ARE **NOT** PART OF THIS. OUR WEEKLY SUNDAY OFFERTORY IS THE PARISH'S "PAYCHECK" TO KEEP EXPENSES PAID LIKE SALARIES, UTILITIES, ETC. UPCOMING FUNDRAISING NEEDS TO CONTINUE FOR OUR OPERATING BUDGET AND NOW TO REPLENISH THE "RAINY DAY FUND" FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS AND SO ON.

DEAR PARISHIONERS, THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR BLAMING AND FINGER-POINTING, BUT A SEASON THAT CHALLENGES US TO BE HOPEFUL FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMMEASUREABLE INJURY OF INNOCENT SOULS, WE MUST NOW CONTINUE TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS. CHRIST STILL CALLS US TO CONTINUE THE MINISTRY OF PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL. OUR PARISH LEADERS ARE CONTINUING TO DISCUSS HOW TO EFFECTIVELY DO THAT. MAY WE GO FORTH, HUMBLER BUT RESOLUTE IN OUR MISSION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.