# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

In re:

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF BALTIMORE,

Chapter 11

Case No. 23-16969-MMH

Debtor.1

# NOTICE OF THE DEADLINE FOR TIMELY FILING PROOFS OF CLAIM RELATING TO, OR ARISING FROM, SEXUAL ABUSE

## THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NOTICE. YOUR RIGHTS MIGHT BE AFFECTED.

# TO ALL PERSONS WITH CLAIMS ARISING FROM SEXUAL ABUSE FOR WHICH THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF BALTIMORE MAY BE LIABLE:

# <u>MAY 31, 2024</u> <u>IS THE LAST DATE TO TIMELY FILE</u> <u>PROOFS OF CLAIM FOR SEXUAL ABUSE</u>

On September 29, 2023, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore, also known as the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore (the "Debtor"), filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland (the "Court"). The Debtor's address, the case number, proof of claim form, and other relevant information related to this chapter 11 case may be obtained at the website maintained by the Debtor's claims and noticing agent (https://dm.epiq11.com/RCABaltimore). Individuals have asserted sexual abuse claims against the Debtor, on account of alleged actions by people and entities associated or alleged to have been associated with the Debtor. Any person who believes that he or she has, or may have, a claim (as defined in section 101(5) of the Bankruptcy Code) resulting or arising in whole or in part, directly or indirectly from any actual or alleged sexual offense as laid out in Subtitle 3 of Title 3 of the Maryland Statutes as well as any sexual conduct or misconduct, sexual abuse or molestation, indecent assault and/or battery, rape, pedophilia, ephebophilia, or sexually-related physical, sexually-related psychological, or sexually-related emotional harm, or contacts, or interactions of a sexual nature between a child and an adult, or a nonconsenting adult and another adult, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual psychological or emotional abuse, humiliation, or intimidation, or any other conduct constituting a sexual offense, incest, or use of a child in a sexual performance, and seeking monetary damages or any other relief, under any theory of liability, including vicarious liability, any negligence-based theory, contribution, indemnity, or any other theory based on any acts or failures to act by the Debtor or any other person or entity for whose acts or failure

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The last four digits of the Debtor's federal tax identification number are 1535. The Debtor's principal place of business is located at 320 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

to act the Debtor is or was allegedly responsible, including but not limited to, claims against clergy, deacons, seminarians, employees, teachers, volunteers, parishes, schools, or other entities related to the Debtor should carefully read this notice.

# YOU SHOULD CONSULT AN ATTORNEY IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, INCLUDING WHETHER YOU SHOULD FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM.

### LAST DATE FOR TIMELY FILING

The Court entered an order establishing <u>May 31, 2024</u> (the "*Claims Filing Deadline*") as the last date for each individual with a sexual abuse claim to timely file a proof of claim. All references to "proof of claim" or "proof of claim form" herein are to Official Bankruptcy Form 410. The Claims Filing Deadline and the procedures set forth below for proofs of claim apply to all sexual abuse claims against the Debtor, based upon alleged acts of sexual abuse occurring prior to September 29, 2023.

#### WHO SHOULD FILE

If you believe that you have a sexual abuse claim against the Debtor or any other person or entity for whose acts or failure to act the Debtor is or was allegedly responsible, including but not limited to, claims against clergy, deacons, seminarians, employees, teachers, volunteers, parishes, schools, or other entities related to the Debtor, you must file a proof of claim form. A proof of claim form should include sufficient information to substantiate the claim. To provide such information, a claimant wishing to assert a sexual abuse claim may, but is not required to, accompany the proof of claim form with the Sexual Abuse Claim Supplement, substantially in the form included herein, or otherwise provide information substantially similar to the information requested by the Sexual Abuse Claim Supplement (such proof of claim with any additional forms or information provided in support of same, a "*Survivor Proof of Claim*"). You must file a Survivor Proof of Claim to maintain and preserve any claims that you have against the Debtor. Even if you have already filed a lawsuit against the Debtor alleging sexual abuse prior to September 29, 2023, you are still required to file a Survivor Proof of Claim to maintain and preserve your rights in the Debtor's chapter 11 case.

#### WHAT TO FILE

FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM FORM. THE DEBTOR STRONGLY ENCOURAGES YOU TO ALSO FILE A SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIM SUPPLEMENT, A COPY OF WHICH IS ENCLOSED, OR OTHERWISE PROVIDE INFORMATION SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIM SUPPLEMENT. IF YOU DO NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO SUBSTANTIATE THE CLAIM, YOUR CLAIM MAY BE SUBJECT TO OBJECTION. ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO THE SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIM SUPPLEMENT WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL UNLESS THE CLAIM HOLDER ADVISES OTHERWISE. YOU MAY ALSO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIM SUPPLEMENT BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW. IN ADDITION, YOU MAY ELECTRONICALLY COMPLETE AND SUBMIT

# A PROOF OF CLAIM AND/OR THE SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIM SUPPLEMENT AT https://dm.epiq11.com/rcabaltimore.

# PROCEDURES FOR FILING A SURVIVOR PROOF OF CLAIM

To file a Survivor Proof of Claim, take the following steps:

Fill out a proof of claim form in its entirety and fill out the Sexual Abuse Claim Supplement or otherwise provide information substantially similar to the information requested by the Sexual Abuse Claim Supplement.

For additional copies of the Sexual Abuse Claim Supplement: (a) photocopy the Sexual Abuse Claim Supplement; (b) contact the Debtor's claims and noticing agent at (in the United States) (877) 337-1944 or (outside the United States) +1 (503) 438-3079; (c) visit the Debtor's website at: <u>https://www.archbalt.org/</u>; or (d) visit the website of the Debtor's claims and noticing agent at <u>https://dm.epiq11.com/RCABaltimore</u>.

# Please note that neither the Debtor's staff nor the Debtor's claims and noticing agent is permitted to give legal advice. You should consult your own attorney for assistance regarding any such inquiries.

Return the completed original proof of claim form and any supporting forms or information to the Debtor's claims and noticing agent via online submission or at the address set forth below by the Claims Filing Deadline. Survivor Proofs of Claim will be deemed timely filed only if they are **actually received** by the Debtor's claims and noticing agent by <u>May 31, 2024</u>.

If you are returning a Survivor Proof of Claim by mail, allow sufficient mailing time so that the Survivor Proof of Claim is **received** on or before <u>May 31, 2024</u>. Survivor Proofs of Claim that are postmarked before that date, *i.e.*, the Claims Filing Deadline, but which are received by the Debtor's claims and noticing agent after the Claims Filing Deadline, will be considered tardy, and may result in legal consequences.

The filing of a timely proof of claim form with sufficient supporting information is the first step for all claims in a bankruptcy case. Any claim (even those providing sufficient supporting information) may be subject to objections or requests for discovery during the claims administration process.

You may file a claim using the proof of claim form and Sexual Abuse Supplement approved by the court by logging on to the following website: https://dm.epiq11.com/rcabaltimore, clicking on the "File a Claim" link in Case Actions and creating an account.

If you do not want to submit your claim electronically, proofs of claim along with the Sexual Abuse Claim Supplement or other supporting information should be delivered to the following address such that they are actually received by May 31, 2024:

If by First Class Mail:

Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore, Claims Processing Center c/o Epiq Corporate Restructuring, LLC P.O. Box 4420 Beaverton, OR 97076-4420 If by Hand Delivery or Overnight Mail:

Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore, Claims Processing Center c/o Epiq Corporate Restructuring, LLC 10300 SW Allen Blvd. Beaverton, OR 97005

# **CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM**

There may be consequences for failing to file a claim. Please consult your attorney.

# **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Filed Survivor Proofs of Claim and Sexual Abuse Claim Supplements will remain confidential in this chapter 11 case, unless you elect otherwise. Therefore, the Survivor Proof of Claim and Sexual Abuse Claim Supplement that you file will not be available to the general public, but will be kept confidential, except that information will be provided to the Debtor, the United States Trustee for the District of Maryland, the Debtor's insurers, attorneys for the Committee, any unknown claims representative appointed by the Court, any settlement trustee appointed to administer payments to Sexual Abuse Claimants, prison authorities for any incarcerated Sexual Abuse Claimants, and such other persons as the Court determines should have the information in order to evaluate the sexual abuse claim, all of whom will agree to keep the information provided by you confidential.