



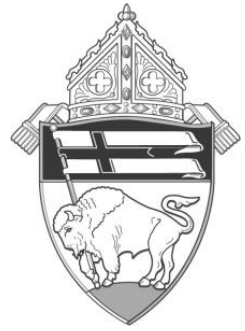
### **The Diocese of Buffalo’s monitoring of priests with substantiated allegations of abuse**

1. As the Diocese of Buffalo’s first obligation is to ensure that children are protected, the priests who are subject to the Diocese’s monitoring program are NOT serving as priests anywhere. All of the priests who are subject to monitoring have been removed from ministry and publicly listed on the Diocese website as priests with substantiated claims of abuse.
2. The Diocese reports all claims of child abuse to the appropriate district attorney. As a result, in addition to the priests already being placed on a publicized list, the district attorney is notified of any child abuse accusations made against any priest of the Diocese.
3. Part of the settlement of the civil lawsuit brought by the New York State Attorney General is that the Diocese will request that priests with substantiated claims of abuse submit to monitoring. The Diocese was just subject to a thorough independent audit, including of its monitoring program, and was found to be in 100 percent compliance with the agreement. Please see the [Link](#) to the news release.
4. If a priest who has been removed from ministry does not cooperate with the monitoring program, the agreement with the Attorney General’s office requires that Bishop Fisher shall consider withholding retirement payments. The Bishop has met and exceeded this requirement. Specifically, although the Bishop is not required to do so, he did in fact decide to withhold retirement payments, housing allowance, and medical and dental benefits from every single removed priest who is not cooperating with monitoring.
5. The details on communications between the Vatican and the Diocese regarding priests accused of abuse vary from case to case, and the cases have different procedural positions as well as differing time frames. The specifics of those communications are confidential. Significantly, however, all priests with substantiated claims have been removed from ministry by the Bishop, without being instructed to do so by the Vatican, and their names are publicized on the Diocese’s website.

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# Diocese of Buffalo

## Office of Communications



### The FOIL Request

1. The files at issue in the FOIL request have been shared with both the Office of the Attorney General and in the bankruptcy proceedings. Thus, they are not “secret” files and have been provided to those that have the need to see them.
2. The Diocese of Buffalo has fully complied with law enforcement and disclosed personnel files of accused priests to the Office of the Attorney General. The Attorney General has also agreed that none of these files will be publicly disclosed until the Article 78 proceeding is fully resolved.
3. All of the files that are the subject of the FOIL request—plus many more files—were turned over in the bankruptcy proceedings.
4. The bankruptcy proceedings have an established protocol to make sure that certain information, including the identities of accusers, is protected and not released publicly. Given the pending proceedings, to release the documents publicly even in redacted form would reveal information that the Creditors Committee and other parties in the bankruptcy proceedings have all agreed should not be publicly disclosed.
5. The July 5, 2024 letter [Link](#) by our legal counsel to the bankruptcy judge outlines why filing the Article 78 proceeding was both essential and required.