

MICHAEL C. BARBER, S.J.
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To the Faithful Catholics of our Diocese,

Peace be with you.

I want to provide you all with a brief update on the status of our bankruptcy case, which is now in a critical time. As your Bishop, I also ask for your prayers.

We were encouraged to hear in open court on November 12, 2025, the two independent mediators report on the constructive negotiations occurring among the parties, leading those mediators to see 'light' in the process. The Diocese of Oakland welcomes the court's decision to grant the mediators' request for two more weeks to try to reach a settlement before Thanksgiving. We remain committed to work in good faith toward a settlement that is fair and equitable to both the survivors of abuse, and to the 500,000 faithful Catholics in our diocese. The challenge in meeting those goals, particularly in light of our limited resources, continues to be a great struggle. It is a matter of public record that we have already offered a recovery, roughly a half million dollars per person, which exceeds any offer in similar bankruptcy with more than 200 survivors. We are committed to doing our best.

Thus, in this critical period, I ask all of you to join me in offering constant and fervent prayers for a successful resolution to this case. We pray first and foremost for the survivors of sexual abuse in our Diocese, who continue to experience terrible pain and suffering. We must all remember that these survivors are innocent of the evil they endured.

Please join me also in praying for our legal team, for all the other professionals working for a successful resolution to this case, and for the Honorable Court. We ask in particular for the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, Mother of God, Queen of the World and Patroness of our Diocese, who stayed faithfully by her Son at the foot of his cross through His death on Calvary.

With the assurance of my continued prayers for you, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, S.J.
Bishop of Oakland

FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD