

June 18, 2025

RE: Our Lady of Peace Parish, Clarence, NY

His Excellency
The Most Rev. Michael Fischer
Bishop of Buffalo
795 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203

Your Excellency,

As you know from my previous correspondence, I serve as Procurator for the parishioners from Our Lady of Peace Parish, Clarence, NY. (hereinafter referred to as Parish). I previously submitted the mandates to you, so they are not enclosed with this letter. As Procurator, and a member of the Parish, I am writing to you on their behalf as well as my own.

We oppose the excessive parish assessment made against the Parish by the Diocese as a parochial contribution to help settle lawsuits filed against the Diocese of Buffalo by the victims of sexual misconduct by priests. Please consider these facts;

1. More than two-thirds of the settlement amount is coming from parishes of the Diocese, yet the parishes do not have representation in the settlement discussions.
2. The secular courts are not requiring the parishes to contribute to the amounts as described in press releases.
3. Public statements from the Diocese initially announced that the contributions were assessments against parishes, ranging from 10% to 80% of their liquid assets. The original press release did not present the assessment as optional. It even referred to the notices given to parishes as "invoices".
4. After public outcry for taxing parishes excessively from assets and not income, Diocesan statements pivoted to claim that no parish was being forced to pay the percentage presented. Rather, these were suggested contributions to assist in the settlement of lawsuits.
5. Reports from attendees at the vicariate meetings explain that the assessments are not suggestions but invoices for payment.
6. Apart from publicly stating that the parishes slotted for extinctive merger will be assessed at 80% of their liquid assets, no other methodology is presented or explained to determine how parishes will be assessed so great a discrepancy of 10% to 79% of their liquid assets.

7. No decree has been published to us. Rather the diocesan CEO and COO presented the amount required of our Parish to our Pastor, and to a limited number of individuals who were present during a vicariate meeting that took place on June 10, 2025. Only the diocesan bishop can direct the collection of an extraordinary tax in his diocese (Canon 1263, et al.). No one has the authority to coerce by any means a free will donation, especially one so large.
8. That excessive amount is \$948,885.00

Please consider the following arguments against assessments;

1. Although the money assessed is expected to come from unrestricted funds donated to the Parish, it is necessary to point out that the money being taken was donated for the use of the Parish, not the Diocese, and certainly not for the specific intention of paying the lawsuit. While not restricted in use by the Parish, the money is restricted for use by the Parish.
2. Our recourse against Your Excellency's extinctive merger decree resulted in a suspension of the decree by the Dicastery for Clergy pending final outcome of our appeals. Your assessment of our Parish is based on the expectation that it will be extinctively merged. You are treating us as though the Parish is being merged. This violates the suspension issued by the Dicastery for Clergy.
3. If the assessment is an extraordinary tax as identified in Canon 1263, as we believe it is, the obligations of Canon 1263 have not been met and therefore the imposition of the tax is invalid.
4. If the assessment is merely a donation made freely to the Diocese, it represents a significant violation of our Pastor's obligation to be a "good householder" (c.f. Canon 1284). His payment of such an excessive sum from unreserved assets substantially harms our Parish Patrimony and jeopardizes the ability to fulfill obligations of care for the immovable property and spiritual patrimony of our Parish. Furthermore, he cannot make so great a donation. Canon 1285 only allows him to make a donation equal to or less than the ordinary administration allowed juridic administrators in the Diocese of Buffalo. That amount is set at \$15,000.00 / year.

Therefore, on my own behalf and on behalf of the people for whom I hold mandate, I ask:

- a. If you issued a directive to collect the money from our Parish, whether as a tax or donation, I make remonstrio in accord with Canon 1734 and ask that you revoke your directive and send me a copy of the Decree by which you made the directive.

- b. If you did not issue the directive and those below your authority have made the directive, whether as the issuance of a tax or request for donation, I make appeal in accord with Canon 1737 and ask that you correct the invalid acts of administration pursued by those individuals and revoke the directive.

With assurances of my prayers, I remain,
Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Greenan", followed by a horizontal line.

Timothy M. Greenan
Our Lady of Peace Parish, Procurator
5045 Winding Lane
Clarence, NY 14031
amhalarm@gmail.com

Copy: Mandaters

SENT VIA USPS Registered Mail