



## DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

### **STATEMENT FROM BISHOP NICHOLAS DIMARZIO AND COUNSEL JOSEPH HAYDEN**

*The Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn, has released the following statement in response to a lawsuit filed against him in New Jersey Superior Court:*

“There is nothing new here from the original letter of complaint from March 2020, where the accuser sought \$20 million. I did not abuse the accuser or anyone else in my 50-year-ministry as a priest. This is defamatory. False claims do real damage to victims of sexual abuse.

The accuser did not attend the parish or the parish school, and does not appear to have been Catholic. Anyone with a minimal understanding of parish life knows that it stretches the imagination to think a priest would be providing private catechism lessons to a non-Catholic six or seven-year-old on a one-to-one basis. Additionally, I simply resided at the parish in question as I was assigned by the Archdiocese of Newark to minister full-time at Catholic Charities.”

*Joseph A. Hayden, Jr. of Pashman Stein Walder Hayden in Hackensack, attorney for Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio stated:*

“The allegations in the lawsuit against Bishop DiMarzio never happened. When the letter of claim was first submitted to the Archdiocese of Newark last March, Bishop DiMarzio agreed to take a lie detector test on the two allegations that were made publicly against him. Bishop DiMarzio was asked about both allegations separately. He denied both allegations separately. He was deemed truthful in his answers to both by an independent retired law-enforcement polygrapher of national stature.

We will never settle this case because the allegation is untrue, and the Bishop looks forward to trying this case before a jury of his peers. A canonical investigation was conducted by an independent, prestigious law firm, which utilized the investigative services of former law-enforcement officials under the direction of a former FBI director. The Bishop met with the investigators and answered each and every question asked of him. I understand the investigation has been sent to Rome. We are currently awaiting the findings.”

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*Bishop DiMarzio is recognized as a leader in the fight against sexual abuse. He instituted changes since arriving at the Diocese of Brooklyn in 2003 that surpassed the mandates of the 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. They include an independent reporting line, where reports are automatically sent to the district attorney in Brooklyn or Queens. He meets with victim-survivors of clergy sexual abuse and started the yearly Mass of Hope and Healing to pray for them.*

*Even before the mandates of the Dallas Charter, Bishop DiMarzio created protocols when he was the Bishop in the Diocese of Camden from 1999-2003 to ensure that children were protected and that victims received the care they need. Under his leadership, the Diocese of Camden was the first diocese in the country to offer victims a toll-free reporting line.*

*As a result of his exemplary record fighting sexual abuse, Pope Francis recently selected Bishop DiMarzio to conduct the investigation into the Diocese of Buffalo.*