WEBINAR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Is it fair to tell the people that no funds from the BLA are used to pay off any settlements?
A: Yes, that is a correct statement. Donations to the BLA are treated as restricted funds and used for the sole benefit of the programs and ministries outlined in the BLA brochure.

Q: Can people donate money to be used only for a specific ministry (e.g., vocations, education, Catholic Charities)?
A: Yes, anyone can send a donation directly to the diocese for a program or ministry, although such a donation would not be considered a BLA donation. BLA donations are only allocated as illustrated in the chart in the BLA materials. We would not be able to manage ~43,000 pledges that were marked to distribute in hundreds of specific ways. Furthermore, some programs could end up being underfunded and some overfunded if we allowed people to individualize the allocation of their BLA donation.

Q: Tim mentioned $3 million used for victims of abuse. Are these funds that have been used since 1974 in our diocese?
A: The $3 million that Tim referred to is the amount that the Diocese has spent on the Office of Victim Assistance, since its inception following the Dallas Charter in 2002. These funds amount to between $160k - $200k, on average, per year, which has been used for staffing and for financial and other assistance to victims/survivors of sexual abuse who reside in our diocese. This includes some assistance to victims/survivors who now live here but were abused in another diocese or by religious order clergy, although in most cases the religious order or diocese where the abuse occurred covers these costs. Included in the $3 million is also approximately $500,000 allocated to direct assistance such as medical, counselling and other emergency needs of victims/survivors.

Q: How is it then that certain dioceses filed bankruptcy to pay off claims?
A: In some states, legislatures have enacted "window" or "lookback" provisions to allow plaintiffs to assert sexual abuse claims that otherwise would have been barred by the statute of limitations. This legislation opened the floodgates a great number of claims, in those dioceses, which created a situation of potential unfairness: if the claims of the first plaintiffs to file were paid in full, there might not be adequate funds to pay later, equally valid claims from other victims/survivors. Bankruptcy exists to resolve such situations: the assets available to pay claims are fairly apportioned to all claimants, eliminating the possibility that some would be paid in full and others receive nothing. To date, there have been no proposals in Virginia to create such a lookback provision – to do so in Virginia would require an amendment to the state constitution, which is not the case in many other states. Since our inception of 1974, the diocese of Arlington has had insurance coverage for sexual misconduct, and any claims that may be asserted prior to that would be a claim against the diocese of Richmond.

Q: Are the services of the Office of Victim Assistance programs offered to anyone who was abused by anyone (in this diocese or another) or only to those abused by clergy or church employees?
A: The Office of Victim Assistance will provide assistance and support to ANYONE living in this diocese, no matter what the circumstances involving the sexual abuse are.

Q. Please explain Diocese of Arlington Catholic Charities (CCDA) funding sources.
A: The following percentages indicate the sources of funding for CCDA in FY 2017-2018.

Annual Fundraising and Major Gifts (includes direct mail, online and other sources)	41%
In Kind Contributions	20%
Bishop's Lenten Appeal	17%
Catholic Charities Ball	14%
Christmas Collection	8%

Q. How should we address people who state they are mad at the U.S. bishops for what they perceive as the bishops' failure to police each other for lying, covering up and sexual abuse (e.g. Archbishop McCarrick), and see not giving to the BLA as a way to either:

1) punish our bishop for what they see as his contributing failure in that regard, or
2) get Bishop's attention to do something about it (which some think bishops failed to do in November)

A: Please consider these thoughts as you seek to address questions such as these from parishioners:

- Funds from the Bishop's Lenten Appeal do not go to the Bishop. The Bishop is making an appeal on behalf of the offices, ministries and programs that benefit our parishes and parishioners.
- All of our good and faithful priests have benefited from the BLA that pays the extraordinary expenses of seminary education and formation.
- Many important ministries that support our parishes are funded by the BLA, such as Gabriel Project, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Religious Education, Catholic Charities, Vocations Programs and Seminarian Education.
- Boycotting, or reducing support for the BLA, will result in fewer people being assisted by our pastoral ministries and will negatively impact those we serve or seek to teach the faith.
- If there is a substantial decrease in funds received from the BLA, critical ministries may be eliminated.
- Bishop Burbidge, and Bishop Loverde before him, have been recognized and outspoken leaders in implementing 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.