



## THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Office of Communications • *The Long Island Catholic* • *Fe Fuerza Vida*

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### STATEMENT

**DATE:** September 29, 2018

**RE:** Reverend Monsignor William G. Breslawski

**FROM:** Sean P. Dolan, Director of Communications

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In the course of a review of files earlier this year, the Diocese discovered a notation regarding a complaint made by an individual in 2002 alleging that Reverend Monsignor William G. Breslawski had sexually abused a friend of the individual when the friend was in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. At that time, the individual making the report was encouraged to have the friend contact the Diocese directly with the allegation. This contact from the alleged victim has not, to date, been made, and the victim remains anonymous. The name and contact information of the reporter of the alleged abuse was provided to the Nassau and Suffolk District Attorney Offices on June 5, 2018. The Diocese also began an investigation to seek further information about this allegation, including to learn the identity of the alleged victim. Based on the investigation to date, it appears the alleged abuse occurred more than 30 years ago, in 1980.

On September 25, 2018, the Diocese of Rockville Centre received a letter from a relative of an individual allegedly abused as a minor, indicating knowledge of what appears to be the same allegation made in 2002. The receipt of a letter repeating the 2002 allegations is a significant development in the Diocese's evaluation of this matter.

In the course of its ongoing investigation, the Diocese also discovered a second complaint, also made in 2002, by two individuals who stated that on the same occasion in 1984, Msgr. Breslawski had an inappropriate interaction with them, which included unwanted physical contact for one of the complainants. Both individuals were adults at the time of the alleged incident.

We are saddened by these allegations, and we will do everything we can to ensure that a fair and just determination is made. During the pendency of this investigation, Msgr. Breslawski has agreed to step away from ministry. Both the Nassau and Suffolk District Attorneys were provided with updated information about all of these details on September 28, 2018.

Reverend Monsignor William G. Breslawski was most recently serving as the pastor of the Church of Saint Anthony of Padua, Rocky Point; he previously served as pastor of the Church of Our Lady of Peace, Lynbrook; pastor of the Church of the Holy Cross, Nesconset; associate pastor of the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lindenhurst; and associate pastor of the Church of Saint Catherine of Sienna, Franklin Square.