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*Attorneys for The Official Committee  
of Unsecured Creditors*

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
OAKLAND DIVISION**

*In re:*  
  
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP  
OF OAKLAND, a California  
corporation sole,  
  
Debtor.

)  
)  
)  
) Case No. 23-40523 WJL  
)  
) Chapter 11  
)  
) **THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF**  
) **UNSECURED CREDITORS' STATUS**  
) **REPORT IN ADVANCE OF**  
) **FEBRUARY 4, 2026 STATUS**  
) **CONFERENCE**  
)  
) Judge: Hon. William J. Lafferty  
)  
) Date: February 4, 2026  
) Time: 10:30 a.m. (Pacific Time)  
) Place: United States Bankruptcy Court  
) 1300 Clay Street, Courtroom 220  
) Oakland, CA 94612  
)

The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "**Committee**") of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland (the "**Debtor**") in the above-captioned chapter 11 bankruptcy case

1 (this “**Chapter 11 Case**”) files this status report (this “**Report**”) in advance of the February 4,  
2 2026 status conference.

3 Last evening the Debtor filed a Status Report [Dkt. No. 2606] through which it requests  
4 a lightning-fast plan confirmation discovery and briefing schedule in connection with  
5 prosecution of a fourth amended plan of reorganization (the “**Fourth Amended Plan**”).  
6 Setting such a schedule is premature at best because:

7 *First*, the Debtor has not yet filed the Fourth Amended Plan and thus its terms and  
8 conditions are not yet known. Specifically, while the Debtor may have a deal in principle with  
9 certain of its insurers (the “**Insurers**”)—although the Debtor’s Term Sheet [Dkt. No. 2521]  
10 (the “**Term Sheet**”) is non-binding—the particulars of each settlement are unknown.

11 *Second*, the Committee intends to file a competing Plan of Reorganization (the  
12 “**Committee Plan**”) shortly. The Committee requests that its plan be solicited for vote and  
13 that discovery proceed on a parallel path with the Fourth Amended Plan. While the Debtor’s  
14 Status Report argues that any such plan cannot be confirmed as a matter of law, the Debtor’s  
15 arguments are based on speculation; the Debtor merely guesses at what the Committee Plan  
16 may provide for.

17 *Third*, the Debtor’s proposed schedule fails to account for the adversary proceeding  
18 (Adv. P. No. 24-04051) (the “**Adversary Proceeding**”) to determine whether any of the  
19 Debtor’s assets are restricted under California law and thus, unavailable to pay creditors. The  
20 Adversary Proceeding was paused at the Debtors’ request in or about July 2025. Before the  
21 informal stay of the Adversary Proceeding, all parties agreed that an adjudication of which  
22 assets are restricted needs to occur prior to, or at a minimum simultaneously with, a  
23 confirmation hearing; nothing has changed in that regard.

24 Prior to the Committee agreeing to freeze all deadlines in the Adversary Proceeding at  
25 the Debtor’s request, the parties were in the early stages of fact discovery. While the  
26 Committee received written responses to its discovery requests propounded on the Debtor,  
27 document production has not begun, in part because the parties anticipated filing discovery  
28 motions in advance of production. The Debtor and the Committee recently met and conferred,

1 but have not, to date, resumed discovery nor agreed to a revised discovery schedule in the  
2 Adversary Proceeding. Thus, the Debtor's proposed confirmation schedule must account for  
3 continued discovery and adjudication of the Adversary Proceeding before or simultaneously  
4 with a hearing on confirmation of the Debtor's forthcoming Fourth Amended Plan and the  
5 Committee Plan.

6 Even if this Court determines that a plan confirmation schedule should be set now, the  
7 Debtor's proposed confirmation schedule incorrectly assumes that all of the discovery taken  
8 in connection with confirmation of the Third Amended Plan remains useful and usable to the  
9 Fourth Amended Plan, and therefore an abbreviated 9.5 week discovery period is sufficient.  
10 The truncated discovery schedule proposed by the Debtor is unworkable because it ignores  
11 that much of the confirmation-related discovery is stale. For example, (i) all fact discovery,  
12 particularly with respect to the financials of the Debtor, its churches, and affiliates, will need  
13 to be updated, and supplemental fact depositions may need to be taken, (ii) the expert report of  
14 Paul Shields of BRG will need to be updated to reflect the Debtor's recent financial  
15 performance, which will bear on, among other things, plan feasibility, and (iii) the Committee's  
16 real estate expert, Randi Rosen, may need to update her analysis based on current market  
17 conditions. Moreover, the Debtor's proposed schedule fails to contemplate the discovery that  
18 may be needed in connection with prosecution of the Committee Plan, which may require  
19 additional expert reports.

20 Further, the Fourth Amended Plan, which the Debtor has indicated will include  
21 settlements with certain Insurers, will require entirely new discovery, including fact and expert  
22 discovery regarding the reasonableness of the proposed settlements. In advance of  
23 commencing that discovery, the Committee will need to retain an insurance expert to opine on  
24 the reasonableness of the proposed insurance settlements. All of the foregoing expert  
25 discovery, particularly the retention of an insurance expert, will be seriously hampered by the  
26 Debtor's proposed amendment to the administrative fee order permitting it to accrue but not  
27 pay professional fees until the end of this case.

28 ///

1           The Committee requests that the Court refrain from entering a scheduling order with  
2 respect to the Fourth Amended Plan or the Committee Plan. Rather, the Committee requests  
3 that the Court direct the Debtor and the Committee to file draft Plans of Reorganization—just  
4 as it recently did in the *Franciscan Friars of California* bankruptcy case (Case. No. 23-41723  
5 WJL) presently pending before this Court—on or before February 27, 2026, and schedule a  
6 further status conference for the following week.

7           As set forth in a February 3, 2026 Joint Status Conference Report filed in the  
8 *Franciscan Friars* bankruptcy case, the Friars and its non-debtor affiliates and the committee  
9 in that case reached a global settlement agreement spurred, in large part, by this Court’s  
10 direction to the debtor and the committee to file draft plans of reorganization on the docket,  
11 after which the parties and this Court could take stock of where their disagreements lie and  
12 allow this Court to guide the parties on a procedural path to resolution. Following a similar  
13 path here will dramatically reduce expenses in the short time and hopefully serve as a driver  
14 towards settlement.

15 Dated: February 3, 2026

**LOWENSTEIN SANDLER LLP**  
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