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**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



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December 18, 2025

Secretariat of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV
00120 Vatican City

Your Holiness:

It is with a great deal of pride that I congratulate you as the first Pope from the United States! In the spirit of the Christmas season, and the birth of our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ, I write this letter to respectfully request your attention to an urgent matter of concern for the plight of more than 1,100 retirees of the former St. Clare's Hospital in Schenectady, New York, who have seen their pensions significantly diminished or outright eliminated due to mismanagement.

St. Clare's Hospital was a Catholic facility affiliated with the Albany Catholic Diocese.

In 2018, the St. Clare's Pension Board with little notice, notified the 1,100-plus pensioners that their retirement savings had suddenly collapsed, but now we know that's not the case because it was cratering for years. Among the Pension Board members were the past two bishops of the Diocese: Bishop Edward Scharfenberger and the late Bishop Howard Hubbard.

Last week, a Schenectady court awarded the pensioners \$54.2 million in damages after a jury found employees of the Albany Catholic Diocese including Bishops Scharfenberger and Hubbard liable for breaches related to the hospital's pension plan. According to the Judge in the case, the Honorable Vincent Versace, the jury "did find the Diocese vicariously liable of the actions of their employees." Since this verdict, in a cynical attempt to skirt financial responsibility and stall the court's punitive portion of the case, Bishop Scharfenberger and another Board member have filed for bankruptcy.

This means that the beleaguered pensioners who dedicated their professional lives to do the work of Our Lord caring for the most vulnerable citizens at what was considered, the "hospital of last resort," are now facing another holiday season and New Year with continued financial uncertainty, stress and fear. Many of these individuals have lost their homes and have been forced to go back to work to make ends meet in what should have been their golden years of retirement.

Your Holiness, as a Catholic and as the New York State Senator who represents many of the 1,100+ St. Clare's Pensioners, I ask for your intervention and to use your influence with the Diocese to expedite and not delay the legal process any further and to appropriately settle what the jury awarded our Pensioners who were doing the work of our Lord Jesus Christ and truly need a miracle now. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James N. Tedisco".

Senator Jim Tedisco

Cc. Albany Catholic Diocese Bishop Mark O'Connell

