

## Conn. parishioners question if insurance covered sexual abuse settlement payments

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SOUTHINGTON, Conn. (AP) — Leaders of a local Roman Catholic parish are questioning the source of \$1.5 million in payments made by the Archdiocese of Hartford to settle sexual misconduct claims against priests.

The archdiocese released a statement saying that most of \$2.5 million in payments made in sexual misconduct cases over the past 10 years came from insurance companies, not contributions from parishioners. The rest, the diocese said, came from the self-insurance portion of the archdiocese's insurance program, the release says.

The statement was in response to questions asked four months earlier by the Rev. Henry C. Frascadore, pastor of St. Dominic Church in Southington.

But now the parish's council president, Derrol Rudnick, is saying that the archdiocese's response does not account for \$1.5 million of the \$2.5 million.

"Although the archbishop has given a response, we feel our questions haven't been answered," Rudnick told The Herald of New Britain.

St. Dominic's had scheduled a meeting to determine what action to take because the archdiocese had not responded to Frascadore's questions for four months. But the parish canceled the meeting after the archdiocese released the statement.

Frascadore was concerned that a portion of the parish's weekly collection was financing the settlements.

The parish pays an annual tax of about \$38,000 a year to the archbishop's annual appeal, also called the cathedraticum fund.

Rudnick said there is a strong support for Frascadore in pursuing answers. Rudnick also said there is some disappointment in the archdiocese in the handling of the situation.

"Why did it take so long for the archbishop to respond? And why wasn't the response sent to us?" Rudnick questioned. "We are now discussing what's the next step because there are still unanswered questions."

The parish council plans to have a discussion with parishioners to determine the next course of action. p