

## **New Jersey Independent Victims Compensation Program to open June 15**

As had been announced in February of this year, the Diocese of Camden – along with the other Roman Catholic dioceses in New Jersey – has established an Independent Victim Compensation Program (IVCP) to compensate those who, as children or young adults, were sexually abused by a priest of the Diocese. The IVCP will be open to claims beginning June 15

The IVCP is independently administered by experienced victim compensation experts Kenneth R. Feinberg and Camille S. Biros. Mr. Feinberg was the plan administrator for the federal 9/11 victim compensation program, as well as the Boston Marathon bombing compensation program.

The IVCP will handle the submission, evaluation and resolution of individual claims, and will operate independently of the Diocese or any church-affiliated institution. The administrators of the IVCP will have complete autonomy to determine the eligibility of a claim with the guidelines of the established Protocol. The amount of compensation for those who make a claim will be independently determined by the IVCP administrators. All victims – no matter when the abuse occurred – are eligible to participate, and all matters will be handled confidentially.

Victims of clergy sexual abuse of a minor can begin the process of utilizing the program by going to [www.njdiocesesisivcp.com](http://www.njdiocesesisivcp.com) and reviewing the protocol for submitting a claim.

The IVCP is a continuation of the goals set out by Bishop Dennis Sullivan in his February 16, 2019 letter to the people of the Diocese of Camden. “We pray that God will continue to look after the victims and survivors of the priest sex abuse scandal. We ask that He give them hope, provide them with healing and bring comfort to their wounded souls.”

Bishop Sullivan strongly encourages anyone who was sexually victimized by a priest of the Diocese to participate in the IVCP, and has asked that anyone who knows of someone who was abused to contact them so that they are aware of the IVCP and can participate in it.