

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
SUPREME COURT : COUNTY OF ERIE**

---

PAUL M. BURNS,

Plaintiff,

v.

**SUMMONS**

Index No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Child Victims Act Proceeding**  
**22 NYCRR 202.72**

FATHER BERNARD SPLAWSKI,  
St Anthony's Friary  
357 2<sup>nd</sup> Street N  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO, N.Y,  
795 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14203

BISHOP TIMON-ST. JUDE HIGH SCHOOL,  
f/k/a BISHOP TIMON HIGH SCHOOL,  
601 McKinley Parkway  
Buffalo, New York 14220

FRANCISCAN FRIARS - HOLY NAME PROVINCE,  
129 W. 31st Street - 2nd Floor  
New York, New York 10001

Defendants.

---

**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the plaintiff's attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service [or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York]; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Erie County is designated as the place of trial on the basis that one or more Defendant resides in this County and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims asserted herein occurred here.

Dated: January 31, 2020  
Hamburg, New York



---

Daniel J. Chiacchia, Esq.  
CHIACCHIA & FLEMING, LLP  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
5113 South Park Avenue  
Hamburg, New York, 14075  
Telephone: (716) 648-3030

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
SUPREME COURT : COUNTY OF ERIE**

---

PAUL M. BURNS,

Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT**

v.

FATHER BERNARD SPLAWSKI,  
THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO, N.Y.,  
BISHOP TIMON-ST. JUDE HIGH SCHOOL, and  
FRANCISCAN FRIARS - HOLY NAME  
PROVINCE (NY),

Index No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Defendants.

---

Plaintiff, PAUL M. BURNS, by his attorneys Chiacchia & Fleming, LLP, brings this action against FATHER BERNARD SPLAWSKI, THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO, N.Y., BISHOP TIMON-ST. JUDE HIGH SCHOOL, and FRANCISCAN FRIARS - HOLY NAME PROVINCE (NY), and alleges, on personal knowledge as to himself and on information and belief as to all other matters, as follows:

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants pursuant to CPLR 301 and 302, in that each Defendant either resides in New York or conducts or, at relevant times conducted, activities in New York that give rise to the claims asserted herein.

2. Venue for this action is proper in the County of Erie pursuant to CPLR 503 in that one or more Defendant resides in this County and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims asserted herein occurred here.

3. This action is brought pursuant to CPLR § 214-G, as added by the New York State Child Victims Act, which has revived claims of child sexual abuse for a period of one year

beginning on August 14, 2019, six months after the effective date of the section (February 14, 2019). This action is timely.

### PARTIES

4. Plaintiff PAUL M. BURNS (“Plaintiff”), is an individual residing in Erie County, New York.

5. Defendant FATHER BERNARD SPLAWSKI (“FATHER SPLAWSKI”) is an individual residing in Pinellas County, Florida. Defendant SPLAWSKI was a priest, teacher, and ski club coordinator/instructor at Bishop Timon-St. Judge High School.

6. Defendant THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO, N.Y. (“DIOCESE”) is a Roman Catholic diocese headquartered in Buffalo, New York, with its principal place of business located at 795 Main Street, Buffalo, New York. At all relevant times, the Diocese of Buffalo operated schools for minor children, including, Bishop Timon-St. Judge High School, during the period of 1975 through 1976.

7. Defendant BISHOP TIMON-ST. JUDE HIGH SCHOOL (“BISHOP TIMON”), was and continued to be a Catholic High School in Buffalo, New York and was managed, overseen, controlled, directed, and operated by the DIOCESE and FRANCISCAN FATHERS - HOLY NAME PROVINCE. In 1993, BISHOP TIMON changed its name from Bishop Timon High School to Bishop Timon – St. Jude High School.

8. Defendant FRANCISCAN FRIARS - HOLY NAME PROVINCE (“FRANCISCAN FRIARS”), is a congregation of Franciscan Friars, with its principal place of business located at 129 W. 31st Street - 2nd Floor in New York, New York. At all relevant times, Defendant FRANCISCAN FRIARS conducted activities in Erie County, New York, including sponsoring and operating Defendant BISHOP TIMON School during the period 1975 through

1976. Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI was a member of the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province.

### FACTS COMMON TO ALL CLAMS

9. In or around 1974 when he was approximately 13 years old, Plaintiff began matriculating at Defendant BISHOP TIMON, a school within and under the auspices of Defendants DIOCESE and FRANCISCAN FRIARS.

10. During the times relevant to the allegations set forth herein, Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI was employed as a priest, teacher, and ski club chaperone at Defendant BISHOP TIMON. Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI was a member of the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province.

11. Through his positions at, within, or for the Defendants, Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI was put in direct contact with Plaintiff, a student at Defendant BISHOP TIMON. Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI was Plaintiff's biology teacher. It was under these circumstances that Plaintiff came to be under the direction and control of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI, who used his position of authority and trust over Plaintiff to sexually abuse and harass him.

12. During the years from approximately 1975 through 1976, while Plaintiff was a minor, Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI, while acting as a priest, teacher, counselor, trustee, director, officer, employee, agent, servant and/or volunteer of the Defendants sexually assaulted, sexually abused and/or had unpermitted sexual contact with Plaintiff in violation of the laws of the State of New York.

13. The abuse began when Plaintiff was approximately 14 years old and ended when he was approximately 15 years old.

14. At all times material hereto, Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI, was under the direct supervision, employ and/or control of Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS.

15. Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS knew and/or reasonably should have known, and/or knowingly condoned, and/or covered up, the inappropriate and unlawful sexual activities of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI who sexually abused, sexually assaulted and/or had unpermitted sexual contact with Plaintiff.

16. Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS had the responsibility to supervise and/or direct priests serving at Defendant BISHOP TIMON, and specifically, had a duty not to aid a pedophile such as Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI, by assigning, maintaining and/or appointing him to a position with access to minors.

17. All Defendants, individually, jointly and/or severally, violated various New York statutes, including, but not limited to N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law §§ 413 and 420, which require school officials and teachers to report suspected cases of child abuse and impose liability for failure to report.

18. Plaintiff suffered personal physical and psychological injuries and damages as a result of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI's actions, as well as other damages related thereto, as a result of his childhood sexual abuse.

19. As a direct result of the Defendants' conduct described herein, Plaintiff suffered and will continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, severe and permanent emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, problems sleeping, concentrating, low self-confidence, low self-respect, low self-esteem, feeling of worthlessness, feeling shameful, and embarrassed, feeling alone and isolated, losing faith in God, feeling estranged from the church,

struggling with alcohol problems, drugs abuse issues, homelessness, feeling helpless and hopeless, problems with sexual intimacy, relationship problems, trust issues, feeling confused and angry, the feeling that the good things have been ruined, feeling sad and depressed, feeling anxiety, having panic attacks, crying, feeling dirty, used, and damaged, feeling suicidal, having flashbacks, feeling like he took the wrong road, feeling that his innocence was stolen, and feeling that his/her life was ruined. Plaintiff was prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing his normal daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; has incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling; and, on information and belief, has incurred and will continue to incur loss of income and/or loss of earning capacity. As a victim of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI's sexual abuse, Plaintiff is unable at this time to fully describe all of the details of that abuse and the extent of the harm he suffered as a result.

### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

#### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION Negligent Retention/Supervision/Direction**

20. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

21. The sexual abuse of children by adults, including priests and school administrators, is foreseeable.

22. By establishing, staffing, and/or operating Bishop Timon High School, encouraging the enrollment and instruction of Plaintiff in Bishop Timon High School, accepting him as a student there and holding the schools out to be a safe environment for learning and engaging in youth activities, Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN

FRIARS entered into an express and/or implied duty to provide a reasonably safe environment for Plaintiff and assumed the duty to protect and care for him.

23. Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS negligently hired, retained, directed, and supervised Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI when they knew or should have known that he posed a threat of sexual abuse to children.

24. Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS knew or should have known of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI's propensity for the conduct which caused Plaintiff's injuries prior to the injuries' occurrence.

25. Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI sexually assaulted, sexually abused and/or had sexual contact with Plaintiff while under the direct supervision, employ and/or control of Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS.

26. Defendants owed a duty of care to all persons, including Plaintiff, who were likely to come within the influence of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI in his role as a teacher, priest, counselor, trustee, director, officer, employee, agent, servant and/or volunteer, to insure that Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI did not abuse his authority as a teacher, priest, counselor, trustee, director, officer, employee, agent, servant and/or volunteer to injure minors by sexual assault, battery, and/or abuse.

27. At all times material hereto, Defendants' actions were willful, wanton, malicious, reckless and/or outrageous in their disregard for the rights and safety of Plaintiff.

28. As a direct and proximate result, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer the injuries described herein.

29. By reason of the foregoing, the Defendants are liable to the Plaintiff, jointly, severally and/or in the alternative, for compensatory damages, and for punitive damages, together



with interest and costs.

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**Negligence/Gross Negligence**

30. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

31. Defendants knew, or were negligent in not knowing, that Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI posed a threat of sexual abuse to children.

32. The acts of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI described hereinabove were undertaken, and/or enabled by, and/or during the course, and/or within the scope of his employment, appointment, and/or agency with the Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS.

33. Defendants owed Plaintiff, at the relevant times a minor, a duty to protect him from Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI's sexual deviancy, both prior to and/or subsequent to Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI's misconduct.

34. Defendants' willful, wanton, grossly negligent and/or negligent act(s) of commission and/or omission, resulted directly and/or proximately in the damage set forth herein at length.

35. Defendants:

- a. gave improper or ambiguous orders or failed to make proper regulations, and/or employed improper persons or instrumentalities in work involving risk of harm to others;
- b. failed adequately to supervise the activities of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI;
- c. permitted, and/or intentionally failed and/or neglected to prevent, negligent and/or grossly negligent conduct and/or allowed other tortious conduct by persons,

whether or not their servants and/or agents and/or employees, upon premises or with instrumentalities under their control; and

- d. allowed the acts of omission and/or commission and/or any or all of the allegations set forth in this Complaint, to occur.

36. At all times material hereto, with regard to the allegations contained herein, Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI was under the direct supervision, employ and/or control of Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS.

37. At all times material hereto, Defendants' actions were willful, wanton, malicious, reckless, and outrageous in their disregard for the rights and safety of Plaintiff, which amounted to conduct equivalent to criminality.

38. As a direct and/or indirect result of said conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

39. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants, jointly, severally and/or in the alternative, are liable to the Plaintiff for compensatory damages, and for punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

### **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION Breach of Fiduciary Duty**

40. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

41. Through his positions at the Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and his appointment by FRANCISCAN FRIARS, Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI was put in direct contact with Plaintiff, then a minor student at Defendant BISHOP TIMON, specifically being assigned as the health teacher and a ski club chaperone. It was under these circumstances that Plaintiff came to be under the direction and control of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI who

used his position of authority and trust over Plaintiff to sexually abuse and harass him.

42. There exists a fiduciary relationship of trust, confidence, and reliance between Plaintiff and all the Defendants herein.

43. Pursuant to their fiduciary relationship, Defendants were entrusted with the well-being, care, and safety of Plaintiff.

44. Pursuant to their fiduciary relationship, Defendants assumed a duty to act in the best interests of Plaintiff.

45. Defendants breached their fiduciary duties to Plaintiff.

46. At all times material hereto, Defendants' actions and/or inactions were willful, wanton, malicious, reckless, and outrageous in their disregard for the rights and safety of Plaintiff.

47. As a direct result of said conduct, Plaintiff has suffered injuries and damages described herein.

48. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants, jointly, severally and/or in the alternative, are liable to Plaintiff for compensatory damages, and for punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

#### **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION Breach of Non-Delegable Duty**

49. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

50. Plaintiff, when he was a minor, was placed in the care of all of the Defendants for the purposes of, *inter alia*, providing Plaintiff with a safe environment to receive a lay education and spiritual instruction, training, guidance and/or counseling. There existed a non-delegable duty of trust between Plaintiff and Defendants.

51. Plaintiff was a vulnerable child when placed within the care of the Defendants.

52. As a consequence, the Defendants were in the best position to prevent Plaintiff's abuse, and to learn of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI's repeated sexual abuse of Plaintiff and stop it.

53. By virtue of the fact that Plaintiff was sexually abused as a parishioner/student, Defendants breached their non-delegable duty to Plaintiff.

54. At all times material hereto Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI was under the direct supervision, employ and/or control of the Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS.

55. As a direct result of said conduct, Plaintiff has suffered injuries and damages described herein.

56. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants, jointly, severally and/or in the alternative, are liable to Plaintiff for compensatory damages, and for punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

#### **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION Fraudulent Concealment**

57. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

58. Defendant allowed the acts of omission and/or commission and/or any or all of the allegations set forth in this Complaint, to occur.

59. Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS knew or should have known of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI's propensity for the conduct which caused Plaintiff's injuries prior to the injuries' occurrence.

60. Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS had a duty

to report any reasonable suspicion of child abuse.

61. Defendants owed a duty of care to all persons, including Plaintiff, who were likely to come within the influence of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI, in his role as a priest, teacher, counselor, ski club chaperone, trustee, director, officer, employee, agent, servant and/or volunteer, to insure that Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI did not abuse his authority as a priest, teacher, ski club chaperone, counselor, trustee, director, officer, employee, agent, servant and/or volunteer to injure minors by sexual assault, battery, and/or abuse.

62. Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS breached their duty by knowingly and willfully failing to report reasonable suspicion of abuse by Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI of children in their care.

63. Defendants breached their duty by knowingly and willfully failing to disclose reasonable suspicions of abuse by Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI of children in their care to current or prospective students.

64. By knowingly and willfully failing to inform other current and prospective students of the abuse of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI, Defendants intended to defraud other current and prospective students.

65. When Plaintiff chose to attend Bishop Timon High School, he reasonably relied upon the Defendants' representation that Defendants would look out for Plaintiff's well-being, care, and safety.

66. While attending Bishop Timon High School, Plaintiff was sexually abused by Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI and has suffered injuries and damages described herein.

67. At all times material hereto, said Defendants' actions were willful, wanton, malicious, reckless, negligent, grossly negligent and/or outrageous in their disregard for the

rights and safety of Plaintiff.

68. As a direct result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

69. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants, jointly, severally and/or in the alternative, are liable to Plaintiff for compensatory damages, and for punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

**SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**Intentional Infliction of Emotion Distress**

70. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

71. During the time period from approximately 1975 through 1976, Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS allowed Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI unrestricted access to Plaintiff and willfully and/or intentionally ignored suspicious behavior and/or complaints against Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI of sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual contact.

72. During the time period referenced above, Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS willfully and/or intentionally ignored Plaintiff's safety by requiring Plaintiff to be under the supervision of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI.

73. Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS were deliberately indifferent to the risk of sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual contact posed to Plaintiff by being alone with Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI.

74. Defendants willfully and/or intentionally created a hostile and unsafe school environment that no child would be able to tolerate.

75. Defendants, in order to avoid embarrassment, scandal, and negative publicity,

intended to cause Plaintiff shame, humiliation and extreme emotional distress so he would stay silent, and not report the abuse.

76. Defendants behaved in a manner toward Plaintiff that was so outrageous as to exceed all reasonable bounds of decency.

77. Defendants knew with substantial certainty or should have known that their behavior would cause Plaintiff to be a victim of sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual contact.

78. Defendants knew with substantial certainty or should have known that their behavior would cause severe emotional distress to Plaintiff.

79. The foregoing acts of Defendants caused Plaintiff physical, mental and emotional distress.

80. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount exceeding the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction.

### **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress**

81. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

82. As described aforesaid, the actions of Defendants, their predecessors and/or successors, agents, servants and/or employees were conducted in a negligent and/or grossly negligent manner.

83. Defendants' actions endangered Plaintiff's safety and caused him to fear for his own safety.

84. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' actions, which included but were not limited to, negligent and/or grossly negligent conduct, Plaintiff suffered the severe injuries

and damages described herein, including but not limited to, mental and emotional distress.

85. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants, jointly, severally and/or in the alternative, are liable to Plaintiff for compensatory damages, and for punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

**EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**Breach of Duty *in Loco Parentis***

86. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

87. Plaintiff when he was a minor was entrusted by his parents to the control of Defendants for the purposes of *inter alia*, providing Plaintiff with a lay education and spiritual instruction, training, counseling and/or spiritual guidance as expounded by the Roman Catholic Church. Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS owe – and owed -- a duty to students entrusted to them to adequately supervise them to prevent foreseeable injuries to their students. As a result, Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiff *in loco parentis*.

88. Defendants breached their duty *in loco parentis*.

89. At all times material hereto, said Defendants' actions were willful, wanton, malicious, reckless, negligent, grossly negligent and/or outrageous in their disregard for the rights and safety of Plaintiff.

90. As a direct result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered the injuries and damages described herein.

91. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants, jointly, severally and/or in the alternative, are liable to Plaintiff for compensatory damages, and for punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

**NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**



**Breach of Statutory Duty to Report Abuse under Soc. Serv. Law §§ 413, 420**

92. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

93. Pursuant to N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law §§ 413 and 420, Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS had a statutorily imposed duty to report reasonable suspicion of abuse of children in their care.

94. Defendants breached that duty by knowingly and willfully failing to report reasonable suspicion of abuse by Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI of children in their care.

95. As a direct and/or indirect result of said conduct, Plaintiff has suffered injuries and damages described herein.

96. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants, jointly, severally and/or in the alternative, are liable to Plaintiff for compensatory damages, and for punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

**TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION  
Nuisance (Common Law and N.Y. Penal Law 240.45)**

97. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

98. The actions and omissions of Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS, as described above, have interrupted or interfered with the health, safety, and welfare of the general public.

99. The Defendants have created and exposed the public to these unsafe conditions continuously and on an ongoing basis since at least the time that Plaintiff was sexually abused and has continued to expose the public to that unabated threat until the present day.

100. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' conduct, the Plaintiff has

suffered special and individualized harms separate and distinct from the harms suffered by the public at large.

101. The harm suffered by the Plaintiff is the exact type of harm that one would expect to result from the Defendants' acts and omissions.

102. Defendants continue to conspire and engage and/or has conspired and engaged in efforts to: 1) conceal from the general public the sexual assaults committed by, the identities of, and the pedophilic/ephebophilic tendencies of Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI and the Defendants' other accused priests, teachers, and coaches; and/or 2) conceal from proper civil authorities sexual assaults and abuse committed by Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI and the Defendants' other agents against minor children; and/or 3) attack the credibility of victims of the Defendants' agents; and/or 4) protect the Defendants' agents from criminal prosecution for their sexual assaults and abuse against children; and/or 5) allow known child molesters to live freely in the community without informing the public.

103. The net result of the aforementioned activities is that Defendant DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS have introduced the threat of criminal activity into the public sphere and has thereby impaired the public's health, safety, and welfare.

104. The conduct of Defendant DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS was especially injurious to Plaintiff's health, safety and welfare as because Plaintiff was sexually assaulted by Defendant DIOCESE's and FRANCISCAN FRIARS' agent, Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI.

105. The conduct of Defendant DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS was further specially injurious to Plaintiff's health, safety and welfare in that when Plaintiff discovered Defendant DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS'

conduct, Plaintiff experienced mental, emotional and/or physical distress that he had been the victim of Defendant DIOCESE's, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS' conduct.

106. Plaintiff has suffered and/or continues to suffer special, particular, and peculiar psychological and emotional harm and/or peculiar pecuniary harm, different in kind from the general public, after learning of Defendant DIOCESE's, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS' conduct.

107. Plaintiff's injuries are also particular to him and different from certain members of the public who have not been harmed by the nuisance. People who have not been harmed by the nuisance include those who have not suffered any injury at all, those who are unaware of the nuisance, those who do not believe that the conduct of Defendant DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS ever occurred, and those who think that any such conduct only occurred decades ago.

108. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants, jointly, severally and/or in the alternative, are liable to Plaintiff for compensatory damages, and for punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

**ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**Debts for Willful and Malicious Injury Nondischargeable**

109. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

110. Pursuant to Section 523(a)(6) of the Bankruptcy Code, any debt "for willful and malicious injury by the debtor to another entity or to the property of another entity" is nondischargeable.

111. Defendants DIOCESE, BISHOP TIMON and FRANCISCAN FRIARS allowed the acts of omission and/or commission and/or any or all of the allegations set forth in this

Complaint, to occur.

112. Defendants breached their duty by knowingly and willfully failing to report reasonable suspicion of abuse by Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI of children in their care.

113. Defendants knowingly, willingly, and intentionally failed to report reasonable suspicion of abuse by Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI of children in their care.

114. Defendants' intentional act of nondisclosure allowed Defendant FATHER SPLAWSKI to continue abusing children in Defendants' care, an injury that Defendants were substantially certain would occur.

115. This intentional act necessarily produced the harm that resulted.

116. Defendants' actions endangered Plaintiff's safety and caused him to fear for his own safety.

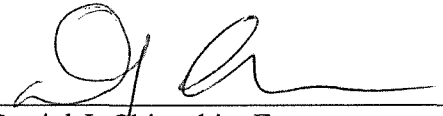
117. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' actions, which included but were not limited to, negligent and/or grossly negligent conduct, Plaintiff suffered the severe injuries and damages described herein, including but not limited to, mental and emotional distress.

118. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants, jointly, severally and/or in the alternative, are liable to Plaintiff for compensatory damages, and for punitive damages, together with interest and costs.

**WHEREFORE**, plaintiff respectfully requests judgment against Defendants herein in sums which exceed the jurisdictional limit of all lower courts which would otherwise have jurisdiction in this action, including compensatory damages, punitive damages, prejudgment interest to the extent permitted by law; costs, disbursements and fees of this action, including attorneys' fees, to the extent permitted by law; and any other relief as the Court deems just and

proper.

Dated: January 31, 2020  
Hamburg, New York



Daniel J. Chiacchia, Esq.  
**CHIACCHIA & FLEMING, LLP**  
Attorneys for the Plaintiff  
5113 South Park Avenue  
Hamburg, New York 14075  
Telephone: (716) 648-3030