



November 11, 2021

Dear Brothers in Christ:

I write to you at the request of the Roman Catholic Ad Hoc Committee (the “Committee”) to ask that if you or one of your organizations is a sponsor of scouting activities (a “Chartered Organization”), that it refrain from voting on the plan of reorganization (“Plan”) proposed by the Boy Scouts of America (“BSA”). As a Diocese, we have been monitoring the development of this plan, especially given our situation of also being involved in a reorganization process. The Committee is analyzing the Plan and attempting to improve its treatment of Catholic Chartered Organizations. Coordinating the vote of Catholic Chartered Organizations will be very important to achieve this objective.

The Committee. The Committee was formed by several Catholic archdioceses and dioceses¹ and Catholic Mutual Relief Society of America in connection with the BSA bankruptcy. The Committee’s purpose is to advocate for the interests of the Roman Catholic Church in connection with BSA’s bankruptcy.

The BSA Bankruptcy Plan. BSA filed for bankruptcy in the wake of many sexual abuse claims asserted by former and current scouts. Some of these claims also name Boy Scout Local Councils and Chartered Organizations that sponsor scouts as defendants or potential defendants. If BSA is able to successfully emerge from bankruptcy, it will receive immunity from sexual abuse claims filed before the bankruptcy. As things stand today, however, Chartered Organizations will not receive the same protection. Accordingly, what is at stake for Chartered Organizations in the BSA bankruptcy is potential significant financial burden from the same sexual abuse litigation that drove BSA into bankruptcy.

Ongoing Negotiations and Future Voting Recommendation. The Committee is attempting to remedy those issues and are currently evaluating their options which may ultimately conclude with a recommendation to object to the Plan. In any event, it will make a recommendation regarding the Plan after its November 22, 2021 meeting.

Chartered Organizations Should Not Vote Yet or Exercise any “Opt Out” Form Yet. One of your parish or school organizations may have received copies of the Plan, which is BSA’s proposal to emerge from bankruptcy and shed its sexual abuse liabilities. Along with the Plan, they may also have received the accompanying disclosure statement, a summary of Chartered

¹ Committee members include the Archdiocese of New York, the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., the Archdiocese of Chicago, the Archdiocese of Atlanta, the Archdiocese of Omaha, the Diocese of Sioux City, the Diocese of Joliet, and the Diocese of Winona-Rochester.

Organizations' options under the Plan with an "opt out" attachment, and the ballot form. They should review these documents carefully, but they are extremely complex. The Committee suggests that voting should await the Committee's recommendation, including a sample ballot and explanation.

Let Us Know How to Send the Committee Recommendation. Please contact Michael Lee at mlee@catholicmutual.org and/or (402) 514-2412 with the contact information, including telephone number and email address, of the best person(s) at each Chartered Organization in your parish or school so that we can send the Committee's recommendation on the Plan.

If the Chartered Organization Already Voted or "Opted Out". If a Chartered Organization has already sent in a ballot or an "opt out" form, please ask that a copy be sent to Committee counsel: Daniel Schufreider, Schiff Hardin LLP, 233 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 7100, Chicago IL 60606, Email: dschufreider@schiffhardin.com, Telephone: 312.258.5669, Fax: 312.258.5600.

Thank you for your assistance in this urgent matter. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Lee at mlee@catholicmutual.org and/or (402) 514-2412 or Committee Counsel.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Ronald W. Gainer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer