**COUNSEL FOR BISHOP FINN PRESS RELEASE**

As counsel for Bishop Finn, Gerald Handley, J.R. Hobbs and Marilyn Keller express the following:

Bishop Finn is grateful that the Court and Prosecutor have allowed this matter to be resolved. This could have been a lengthy and emotionally difficult trial for all persons affected. The bench trial with a stipulation of testimony has avoided the need for live testimony from Diocesan employees, parishioners and others. This process has also resulted in the charges against the Diocese being dismissed by the State.

The Diocesan process and procedures as previously existed failed to adequately identify the necessity to inform the Children’s Division of Shawn Ratigan’s behavior in a more timely manner. For this the Bishop is truly sorry.