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To the Editor:

It's encouraging to see officials of the Bridgeport Diocese say they are attempting to recover some of the \$1.4 million that was misspent by the Rev. Michael Jude Fay while he was pastor at St. John's in Darien (Advocate news story, Dec. 5). What the article doesn't reveal is how the diocese plans to accomplish that, and the comments of Norm Walker, the diocese's chief financial officer, seem to raise more questions than they answer.

Has the diocese sued Father Fay or asked him to assign his interest in the condominium to the diocese? If not, how does the diocese expect to receive any share of the sale proceeds?

Has the diocese filed a claim with its insurance carrier to seek recovery of these losses?

What other actions, if any, has the diocese taken to recover these funds? Doesn't it have a fiduciary duty to the parishioners of St. John's to seek recovery by all reasonable means?

Has the diocese filed a complaint with any law enforcement agency accusing Father Fay of any crime, or does it view his activities as merely "extravagant" spending?

Last, the bishop notes that if parishioners had come forward sooner, a lot of money could have been saved. That comment smacks of the same blame-the-victim mentality all too prevalent in the church's sex abuse scandals of recent years, and seems to me to be inconsistent with Bishop Lori's claim to be in the "redemption business."

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