



**PRESS STATEMENT
For Immediate Release
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CROZIER GALA HONOREE STATEMENT

The Catholic Community Foundation was notified that retired Bishop Thomas O'Brien has chosen not to receive recognition as an honoree at the 24th Annual Crozier Gala.

Foundation president and CEO Donna Marino states, "The executive committee of the board of directors has accepted Bishop O'Brien's decision. Regrettably, we did not anticipate the reaction of the public before the selection was made, which was based solely on his role as the founder of the organization and the event. We are sorry for any pain and suffering this has caused victims of abuse and their families. We offer our apologies for not having shown more understanding and compassion."

The procedures by which honorees are selected for Foundation events will be formalized by the board of directors and will become policy of the organization moving forward. The board of directors, staff and all volunteers remain committed to the good work of the Foundation and its role as a Catholic grantmaker.

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