



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 21, 2018

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we head into the final nine weeks of the Catholic Charities appeal, I want to sincerely thank you for your support of this critical mission of helping thousands of people in need across Western New York. I also want to clarify what your generous donations are (and are not) used for.

While the majority of your donation goes directly to Catholic Charities to assist the more than 70 outreach ministries, a portion of your donation goes toward the Bishop's Fund for the Faith. This fund continues to support diocesan ministries such as the Campus Ministry, Catholic Urban Outreach Network, Family Life, Hospital Apostolate, Lay Leadership Development, Ministry to the Imprisoned, the Office of Cultural Diversity and Youth Leadership Formation.

Some have questioned whether any part of their Fund for the Faith donation will go toward paying settlements to the victims of past abuse by priests. The answer, I can assure you, is no. The recently announced Independent Reconciliation & Compensation Program will be paid from insurance, self-insurance liability, and investment fund reserves. I also announced this week that we will be selling the Bishop's Residence to use the proceeds toward the IRCP as a sign of how important we feel that program will be for helping the diocese move forward by beginning to heal the wounds of victims.

While the compensation program is important, I want to again assure you that no part of it will be paid for with your donations toward Catholic Charities, the Bishop's Fund for the Faith, or Upon This Rock. The issues that have come to light over the last several weeks have been trying for our faith and our trust, but the ministries of the Catholic Church continue and they need your support to continue. Together we can get through a dark moment in the history of the church in which our parents and grandparents so graciously raised us.

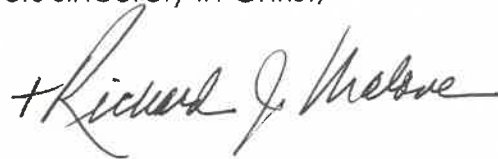
It is important for you to know that appeal funds are allocated to support programs that provide basic needs assistance for those living in poverty: food pantries, emergency financial assistance, shelter, clothing, household items, etc. In addition, appeal funds are used to enable those who do not have health insurance to access mental health and substance abuse counseling services, by allowing Catholic Charities to charge a sliding fee scale based on income. Appeal funds

allocated to these programs cover the gap between the cost to provide these services and what an individual recipient is able to pay. Catholic Charities staffs the Victims' Services Program and continues to provide services to victims of child abuse and neglect, domestic violence and elder abuse. These integral programs are augmented by Appeal funds.

We are all angry and dismayed at the revelations of sexual abuse by clergy in our diocese. Please don't express that anger in a way that withholds needed assistance to those who most need it. In this city and region of good neighbors, Catholic Charities provides vital assistance and support to so many of your neighbors. Perhaps they will help you or one of your loved ones someday.

Please give extra consideration to Catholic Charities in these final weeks of the appeal. Thank you for your time and for your generosity. Be assured of my prayers for you and for our entire diocesan family.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard J. Malone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Richard J. Malone