



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 5, 2019

The Movement to Restore Trust  
c/o Canisius College  
2001 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14208

Dear President Hurley:

I wish to thank sincerely all the members of The Movement to Restore Trust for their faith-filled and passionate concern for the Church throughout Western New York during this time of crisis. Over the past year, the Church—both local and global—has faced deep challenges. I appreciate the hours of dialogue and discussion the Movement to Restore Trust has fostered to assist in addressing the healing of victim survivors of sexual abuse and other daunting challenges of our time. Your efforts ensure that the Church remains a place where the saving Word of God is proclaimed and lived out through worship and service in an environment of safety, and in outreach to all who are hurting and bereft of trust and hope.

*The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium)* teaches: "Gathered together in the People of God and established in the one Body of Christ under one head, the laity – no matter who they are – have, as living members, the vocation of applying to the building up of the Church and to its continual sanctification all the powers which they have received from the goodness of the Creator and from the grace of the Redeemer" (LG 33).

The Movement to Restore Trust demonstrates one significant way the laity, as living members of the Body of Christ, apply and participate in the work of the Church, and I am happy to offer general support for the main principles and the nine foundational themes of the initial report of the Movement to Restore Trust presented to me on February 27, 2019. This includes possible engagement with the Leadership Roundtable with whom initial discussion has already begun.

In light of the ramifications of such comprehensive, systemic, and long-term policy implications from all that the Movement to Restore Trust proposes, as well as the acknowledgement of partial completion of some recommendations,

I propose the establishment of a joint implementation team that would work out particulars regarding feasibility, prioritization, sequencing and action steps for each recommendation. This team would be constituted by representatives from the MRT workgroups, along with members of the diocesan Presbyteral and Pastoral Councils, and may include the expertise of particular appointed diocesan staff or others. This implementation team would be charged with reporting jointly, and in writing only, to the Movement to Restore Trust Organizing Committee and the Bishop of Buffalo. The MRT Organizing Committee and the Bishop will decide to report progress publicly, as mutually agreed.

The Movement to Restore Trust has tilled the soil and together, I hope, we will plant the seeds to produce a rich harvest for the Lord.

Sincerely in Christ,

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

Most Reverend Richard J. Malone  
Bishop of Buffalo