

FROM 100 COMMUNITY LEADERS:

# An Appeal for Justice

TO: Bishop Richard J. Malone  
Diocese of Buffalo  
795 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203

TO: Anthony Tersigni, EdD, FACHE  
President and CEO,  
Ascension Health  
101 South Hanley Road, Suite 450  
St. Louis, MO 63105

TO: Richard Gilfillan, MD  
President and CEO,  
Trinity Health  
20555 Victor Parkway  
Livonia, MI 48152

**Dear Sirs,**

**As community leaders in the Greater Buffalo area served by Catholic Health, we wish to bring to your attention the recent report by the Workers' Rights Board of Buffalo's Coalition for Economic Justice. The report highlights multiple areas where Catholic Health has strayed from its mission and stated values with serious impact on our community and our neighbors who work for Catholic Health.**

In particular we hope that you will look carefully at the report *Breaking Faith: How Catholic Health Executives Abandon Catholic Social Teachings*.

- Catholic Health stands out for having an executive compensation bonus plan that rewards its Human Resources Vice President for extracting financial concessions from employees.
- Catholic Health's own IRS filings indicate that it offers uncompensated charity health care at a rate of only half the national average and half what the other large hospital system here provides.
- Catholic Health has embraced outsourcing jobs to for-profit companies outside of our area and beyond our national borders.
- Catholic Health favors non-union contractors without a commitment to local workers, apprenticeship programs, diversity, and sustainable prevailing wage and benefits packages. In doing

so, it violates its own "Memorandum of Understanding," adopted in the mid-1990's that constitutes the working arrangement to which both the Diocese and Construction Trades had agreed.

- Catholic Health has repeatedly flaunted both the spirit of its own grievance procedures and the National Labor Relations Act.
- Catholic Health has penalized numerous non-union employees who have special medical or other needs.

Fortunately, the report lists numerous recommendations that would begin to restore Catholic Health's place among health providers that truly serve their communities with Reverence, Compassion, Justice and Excellence. It should be noted that many of the recommendations cost little or nothing to implement but rather invite a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect, benefitting hospital management, patients and staff alike.

We recognize the critically important role Catholic Health continues to play in our Western New York community. For this reason, we offer the Report with our hope that you will insure that Catholic Health returns to the values expressed clearly and persuasively in your own Mission Statement.

**The report can be found at:**  
<http://cejbuffalo.org/posts/campaign/2015/10/breaking-faith/>

**Sincerely and respectfully,**

Robert Adler  
*Commodore (Ret.), The Buffalo Harbor Sailing Club*

Julie Algubani  
*Executive Director, Western New York Muslims*

Karima Amin  
*Founder, Black Story Tellers of Western New York*

Thomas Barrett  
*President, Buffalo Professional Firefighters Association*

Aaron Bartley  
*Executive Director, People United for Fair Housing*

Michael Blake  
*Founder, South Buffalo Soccer Club*

Daryl T. Bodewes  
*Financial Secretary, North East Regional Council of Carpenters*

Carlene Boisaubin  
*Member, Contemporary Music Ensemble, St. Joseph University Parish*

Justin Booth  
*Executive Director, Go Bike Buffalo*

Kathy Boyd  
*President, Willowgrove Community Association*

James Briggs  
*President Niagara-Orleans County CLC*

Paul Brown  
*President, Buffalo Building and Construction Trades Council*

Rev. Anthony Brown  
*Program Manager, Buffalo SNUG*

Marty Burchalewski  
*Business Representative, IUOE*

Walter Burgett  
*Board of Education, Cheektowaga Central Schools*

Larry Cannan  
*Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus Council #3875*

Roger Cook  
*Board Co-Chair, Riverside-Salem United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ*

Andrea Dacey  
*Board of Directors, South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce*

Michael Deely  
*Regional Director, New York State United Teachers*

Jax Deluca  
*Executive Director, Squeaky Wheel Film and Media Arts Center*

William DeMonte  
*Assistant Director, North Tonawanda Emergency Management Operations*

Julia Drinnon-Doran  
*Ladies of Charity, St. Pius Church*

Anna Falicov  
*General Counsel, New York Foundation for Fair Contracting*

Joel Feroletto  
*Buffalo City Councilman, Delaware District*

Michael Fisher  
*President, Buffalo Citizens on Patrol Neighborhood Watch*

Duane T. Flemming  
*Liaison, Sick and Shut in Ministry*

Lou Jean Fleron  
*Co-Director, Partnership for the Public Good*

Dr. Fred Floss  
*Professor, Department of Economics and Finance, Buffalo State College*

David Franczyk  
*Buffalo City Councilman, Fillmore District*

Ulanda Frank  
*President, University District Block Club of Buffalo*

Andy Garcia  
*Director, Western New York Hispanics and Friends*

Germaine Harnden  
*Executive Director, Western New York Council on Occupational Safety and Health*

Josephine Harris  
*Den Leader, Cub Scout Pack 816*

Mary Heneghan  
*President, Gaelic American Athletic Association*

Ronald Hosinski  
*President (Ret.), Corpus Christi Church Social Athletic Club*

Karen Howard  
*President, Nurses' Guild, Mt. Erie Baptist Church*

Yuri Hresychin  
*Board of Directors, Dnipro Ukrainian Association*

Rev. Jerry Hunter  
*Mount Erie Baptist Church*

Sister Judith Justinger, SSJ  
*Leadership Team, Sisters of St. Joseph*

Patricia Kaiser  
*Associate Professor, Vice-President, Faculty Federation of Erie Community College*

Joseph Keleman  
*Executive Director, WNY Law Center*

Laura Kelly  
*Executive Director, Old First Ward Community Center*

George Kennedy  
*Executive Vice-President, 1199 SEIU Healthcare Workers East*

Kevin M. Kennedy  
*President, Buffalo Police Benevolent Association*

Tod Kniazuk  
*Executive Director, Arts Services Initiative of Western New York*

Jason Kulaszewski  
*Co-Chair, Young Citizens for ECC*

Rev. Kirk Laubenstein  
*Executive Director, Coalition for Economic Justice*

Rich Lee  
*President, Buffalo Board of Block Clubs*

James Lint  
*President, North Collins Veteran's Tribute*

Richard Lipsitz  
*President, Western New York Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO*

Rev. John R. Long  
*Pastoral Associate, First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo*

Sam Magavern  
*Co-Director, Partnership for the Public Good*

Joan Malone  
*Secretary, Living Wage Commission of Buffalo*

Pat Mang  
*Mayor, Village of Kenmore*

Mark Manna  
*Council Member, Town of Amherst*

Martha McCluskey  
*Professor, University at Buffalo School of Law*

Katie McDade-Burd  
*Trustee, Village of Kenmore*

Roger McGill  
*Fire Chief, Bellevue Volunteer Fire Company*

Francis McLaughlin  
*Director, Erie County Veterans Services*

Sheila Meegan  
*Town Supervisor, Town of West Seneca*

Tara J. Melish  
*Director, Buffalo Human Rights Center, SUNY Buffalo School of Law*

Darlene Mercado  
*President, Hispanic Women's League, Inc.*

Frank Messiah  
*President, NAACP Buffalo*

Barbara Miller-Williams  
*Erie County Legislator, First District*

Robert Mootry, Jr.  
*President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists*

John Mudie  
*President, Western New York CLC*

Louis Mustillo  
*Actor, Mike and Molly*

Lazara Nelson  
*Curator, Pausa Art House*

Jon Nelson  
*Director, Genkin Philharmonic Orchestra*

George Nicholas  
*Pastor, Lincoln Memorial Methodist Church*

Carl Nightingale  
*Professor, Department of Transnational Studies, State University of Buffalo*

Jeff Nixon  
*Former Defensive Back, Buffalo Bills*

Greg Olma  
*Board of Directors, Mickiewicz Polish Library*

Peg Overdorf  
*Executive Director, Valley Community Center*

Marc Panepinto  
*Senator, New York State*

Matthew Pope  
*Grand Knight (Ret.), Knight of Columbus—Father Baker Council*

Bernice Radle  
*Chairperson, Buffalo Young Preservationists*

David Rivera  
*Buffalo City Councilman, Niagara District*

Casimiro Rodriguez  
*President, Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York*

Christopher Scanlon  
*Buffalo City Councilman, South District*

Marc Schroeder  
*Comptroller, City of Buffalo*

John Shinn  
*Director, USW District 4*

Rev. Merle Showers  
*Chair, City of Buffalo Living Wage Commission, United Methodist Church*

Casey Smiegelski  
*President, South Buffalo Crew*

Liz Smith-Rossiter, MPA  
*Project Director, Western New York Worker's Center*

Gary Snyder  
*Captain (Ret.), Main-Transit Fire Company*

Howard Stanger, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Management, Canisius College, Wehle School of Management*

Doug Stock  
*President, Dunkirk Area Labor Council*

Bill Strugeon, Jr.  
*Director, Oakfield Fire Department*

Dr. Henry Louis Taylor, Jr.  
*Director, UB Center for Urban Studies and Urban Regional Planning*

Minh Xuan Tran  
*Recipient, Bishop's Alter Service Award of 2015, Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Flo Tripi  
*Western Region President, CSEA*

Brian Trzeciak  
*Western New York Citizen Action*

George Tutuska  
*Former Drummer, The Goo Goo Dolls*

Christine Vogel  
*Vice President, Western New York Women Lawyers Association*

Pierre Wallinder  
*Executive Director, Sail Buffalo*

Padraic Walsh  
*Chairman, Irish Network Buffalo*

Anthony Woods  
*Deacon Chairman, Mount Erie Baptist Church*

Ken Young  
*President, Town Park Tax Payers Association*

Jason Zona  
*Niagara County Legislature, 5th District*