



DIOCESE OF BUFFALO
Office of the Bishop

May 25, 2023

My Dear Friends,

In light of a recent report by a local news station, it is important to make clear that the Diocese of Buffalo cooperated fully with the Office of the Attorney General in its investigation and throughout the process of resolving the lawsuit filed in November of 2020. This entailed turning over relevant files and documentation pertaining to priests accused of abuse to the Attorney General's office. These extensive documents were also provided to attorneys representing victim-survivors in the Diocese's ongoing bankruptcy proceedings.

The [settlement](#) arrived at with the Attorney General and her staff last October confirmed that the rigorous policies and protocols the Diocese has put in place over the past several years are the right ones to protect young people and other vulnerable persons from abuse of any kind.

The Attorney General's video-recorded interviews with Bishops Richard Malone and Edward Grosz speak for themselves and offer their own personal accounts about how allegations of sexual abuse by members of the clergy were handled by themselves and predecessor bishops and other key personnel of the Diocese. The fact that mistakes in judgment and in practice were made is without question. While the details recounted will no doubt be a source of further pain for those who have suffered detestable acts of abuse, it is our hope that the strict policies and protocols that we have implemented and which we will continue to assess and update as appropriate provide some sense of assurance that the crimes they endured cannot be repeated.

As I have pledged since arriving in Buffalo in January of 2021, it continues to be my highest priority to work toward the healing of those who have been harmed, to plead for their forgiveness, and to do everything in my capacity as bishop to ensure that the failings of the past will only ever remain in the past.

Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo