

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN

Malone deserves support, instead of mass insolence

With all due respect to the victims of sexual abuse, what has occurred concerning Bishop Richard Malone has been more about degrading the reputation of the Catholic Church than it has about getting justice for those abused.

In June 2002, the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, was established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to address the offenses of the church. Since the day Malone arrived in Buffalo in 2012, he has followed these guidelines. He admitted to shortcomings in dealing with cases of adult abuse and apologized quickly and often for any oversights.

Recent instances of betrayal and exposure of documents and taped conversations concerning ongoing internal personnel matters within the Diocese of Buffalo resulted in the media exploiting the information. Headline news elevated the events to an unworthy place and sensationalized them causing the confidence of the faithful in their leader to erode.

A group of us, Kevin Brayer, Craig and Mrene Corra, Joe and Mary Flanagan, Nick and Beth Forth, Diane Franz, Jim Grubka, Dr. David and Dr. Rose Hershenov, Kate Hahn, Rick Jachimiak, Jeanne Koch, Dr. and Mrs. Bernard and Paula Kolber, Joe Murphy, Jim O'Brien, Bonnie M. Philipps, Jack Shanahan, Lenore Uhrich, Brian Zittle and I, have confidence in Malone to continue facing the challenges of our diocese.

We intend to show him support and assist him where needed as well as keep him and our diocese in our prayers as we move forward together.

Susan Santandreu

Hamburg