

\*\*\*\*\* Media Advisory \*\*\*\*\*

## A Demonstration in Support of Seminary Whistleblower Stephen Parisi

*James Faluszczyk and Siobhan O'Connor, whistleblowers who have called the Church to accountability, stand in solidarity with Stephen Parisi. Local and national advocates are dismayed by the level of dysfunction at an institution charged with the responsibility of forming the next generation of priests in Buffalo.*

*Mr. Parisi will detail allegations of blackmail, a highly sexualized atmosphere, and retaliation against seminarians who speak out against this behavior. He will call for the resignation of Bishop Richard Malone, and demand an investigation of the seminary and its leadership.*

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**WHEN:** Sunday, August 18, 2019, 9:00-11:00am.

**WHERE:** In proximity to the Bishop's Residence, on the public sidewalk across from St. Stanislaus Church at Peckham and Wilson Streets on Buffalo's East Side. Peckham is one-way and exits onto Fillmore Avenue.

BUFFALO, NY. Saturday, August 17, 2019 – In a shocking development this week Seminarian Stephen Parisi of the Diocese of Buffalo announced that he will not return for studies next week at Christ the King Seminary. As the student-elected "Dean of the House" he has revealed retaliation against seminarians by seminary officials and described a sickly dysfunctional environment at the seminary, once regarded at the "Heart of the Diocese".

It is important now, more than ever, that whistleblowers against the Church and other powerful institutions be protected and safely and openly heard.

The seminary is a barometer of the health of the diocese. Bishop Malone's intractable tenure in Buffalo stands as an obstacle of healing.

