

\*\*\*\*\* Media Alert and Availability \*\*\*\*\*

## Buffalo Bishop Mike Fisher Was Appointed by Questionable Means, Priest-Whistleblower and Buffalo NY SNAP Leader Contend

*James Faluszczyk, himself a victim of abuse by a priest, and still feeling called to the priesthood, left active ministry because the Church ignored his claims. He testified before the 40th Pennsylvania Grand Jury as it investigated six dioceses there. He now works as an international researcher and institutional sex abuse victim advocate.*

*Judith Burns-Quinn is the longstanding Buffalo Leader of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), and has worked with countless victim-survivors here.*

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**WHAT:** A public demonstration to point out that tainted individuals and methods were used by Pope Francis to assign a bishop to a community already devastated by clergy sex abuse.

**WHEN:** Friday, January 15, 2021, 1:00-2:30pm EST.

**WHERE:** On the public sidewalk across the street from St. Joseph Cathedral, 50 Franklin Street, Buffalo NY 14202.

BUFFALO, NY. Friday, January 15, 2021 – Longstanding member of the Vatican Congregation for Bishops, Cardinal Donald Wuerl replaced disgraced former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick as “Kingmaker” among America’s bishops. This is an ever-present yet rarefied position in the American Catholic Church.

Wuerl ordained his close associate Mike Fisher as a bishop in Washington DC, and recommended him for Buffalo after Wuerl was repeatedly disgraced by the 40th Pennsylvania Grand Jury (2016) and the Vatican’s recent report on McCarrick (2020).

While we wish Bishop Fisher the best on the day of his installation, we consider the method and people Pope Francis used to make this selection to be a continuing source of scandal and injustice.

Pope Francis has tainted what should be a hopeful and joyous day, and again slapped victims in the face.

Recently appointed bishops in Springfield MA and Youngstown OH bear out this problematic pattern of appointing bishops, who also have Wuerl’s stamp on them.

