



OFFICE OF THE  
APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR

## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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September 25, 2018

Dear Monsignors, Fathers and Deacons,

I write today with an update on my administration of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, as well as the status of the investigation into the allegations concerning Bishop Michael Bransfield.

As you know, my service as Administrator of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is concurrent with my continued service as Archbishop of Baltimore. Given my duties and responsibilities in the Archdiocese and the need for day-to-day oversight of the operations of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, I have appointed a Delegate for Administrative Affairs. Mr. Bryan Minor, Executive Director of Human Resources for the Diocese, will serve in this capacity, effective immediately. Bryan will assist me in overseeing the daily operations of the Diocese and will serve as the diocesan point person for the administrative issues that heretofore were the responsibility of the Vicar General.

I have accepted the gracious offer of Monsignor Fred Annie, former Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia – positions that cease to exist during an interregnum, to step away from his duties in the Chancery during the entirety of the investigation into the allegations concerning Bishop Bransfield.

Regarding the investigation, I have empaneled a five-member team to investigate allegations involving the former Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston. The five-member team is comprised of three men and two women, including one non-Catholic, who bring a breadth of investigative expertise and experience to their work. My charge to the investigative team is simple: follow the truth wherever it leads. Their work has already begun, including their review of the more than three dozen calls to the hotline I established on the day of my appointment as Administrator. I have asked for a thorough, independent and expeditious investigation.

In all of this my primary concern remains the spiritual welfare of the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. To that end, I intend to make regular pastoral visits to the Diocese, meeting with priests and celebrating Mass with and for the people. I humbly ask for your prayers for me and assure you of my continued prayers for you and for God's people of Wheeling-Charleston.

In prayerful solidarity, I remain

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Archbishop of Baltimore  
Apostolic Administrator of Wheeling-Charleston