

January 1, 2018

Mr. Patrick Gareau
President and CEO
Catholic Charities
Diocese of Cleveland
7911 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44102

Subject: Correcting an injustice

Dear Mr. Gareau:

I represent a Lake County group called "Lobbyists for Citizens". We are a group of social activists that monitor events taking place in Lake County and try to ensure that our politicians and the various governmental agencies and non-profits are good stewards of the taxpayers' money. All of our efforts are guided by the Christian principle of "Love thy Neighbor", and that we are a sovereign nation with laws that must apply to everyone.

We would like to make you aware of a situation that has occurred in the City of Willowick. The two parties involved are St. Mary Magdalene Church and the Lake County Land Reutilization Corp. (known as the Lake County Land Bank).

For over ten years the Church has let their abandoned rectory and convent fall into such disrepair that the City of Willowick should have condemned both buildings and insisted that the church either demolish the blighted buildings or bring them up to the City's standards. For some unknown reason, the City just let the church continue to ignore its obligation. Pictures of the blighted buildings are attached for your review.

The City officials and the current Church officials contacted Mr. John Rogers, Executive Director of the Land Bank, and asked for help in demolishing the buildings. The Church has agreed to give the property's free and clear title to the Land Bank.

Mr. Rogers has agreed to the request for help and has estimated that the cost of demolition is \$175,000. The parcel of land, on which the buildings reside, will be split into two residential lots with estimated values of \$38,500 and \$54,000. So, in effect, the Lake County taxpayers have donated \$82,500 to the Catholic Church. We object to this financial aid since the church has ample financial resources to solve their own problems. This financial burden should not be borne by taxpayers that are not even members of the church.