

By email: nuntiususa@nuntiususa.org

November 12, 2018

Archbishop Christophe Pierre
Apostolic Nuncio to the United States

Your Excellency,

Last October 22, I wrote to you to request a meeting to discuss the appointment of the next Archbishop of Washington. As there were reports that Cardinal Tobin was being considered for the appointment, I started a petition that he not be appointed until the completion of the investigation into former Cardinal McCarrick's activities, an initiative announced by the USCCB. That petition, <https://www.change.org/p/archbishop-christophe-pierre-cardinal-tobin-must-not-be-made-archbishop-of-washington-before-investigation>, was picked up by Rorate-caeli, LifeSiteNews, ChurchMilitant, Marco Tosatti, kath.net, and other websites. It now has more than 5400 signatures.

Since my October 22 letter, I have contacted Mrs. Winnie Obike, who started a petition to remove Cardinal Wuerl. That petition, <https://www.change.org/p/pope-francis-remove-cardinal-wuerl-now>, has more than 141,200 signatures. As Cardinal Wuerl has still not been removed but only given a different title, people are continuing to sign the petition.

Mrs. Obike and I are in touch with the nearly 150,000 combined signers of our petitions. From the comments they have returned to us, we have a strong understanding of what they expect in the new Archbishop. Therefore Mrs. Obike and I are asking for a meeting with you to discuss qualities needed in the new Archbishop and even to suggest candidates for consideration.

I know you will be addressing the USCCB General Assembly this week. I hope you will assure them of the prayers of the Catholic laity as well as our high expectations and readiness to assist in restoring the clergy to holiness. The history of the Church teaches that the laity must lead by their insistence and example and we pray we will do our part. We ask for your assistance not only in selecting a worthy new Archbishop for Washington but also in forming an enduring means for the laity to communicate with our hierarchy and with Rome.

With prayers for your work, we are

Respectfully yours,

Donna F. Bethell and Winnie Obike