

November 12, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ the Lord,

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, the Vatican released, *Report on the Holy See's Institutional Knowledge and Decision-Making Related to Former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick (1930-2017)*. Please see the [report](#).

I am grateful to Pope Francis for his [leadership](#) in calling for this report and to Archbishop Jose Gomez, President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, for his initial [statement](#) about the report. Because this report is lengthy and detailed, we also await further review and insights from the USCCB and pray for the continued work of the Holy Spirit in bringing conversion and purification in the Church, especially among the successors of the Apostles.

As the Vatican releases this report, I express my deep sorrow for what is contained in this report about Theodore McCarrick's actions. I use this occurrence to express my profound apology for any instances of sexual abuse of victim survivors by members of the clergy and for the harm to victim survivors that has been compounded by failures to address sexual abuse by church authorities.

As the Bishop of Memphis, I promise to do everything in my power to safeguard our children and youth, and to help those abused in the past. To aid in the healing process, a system of examination was established and all files in our Diocese were reviewed by two sets of examiners: one comprised of priests who are members of the College of Consultors and one comprised of laity from our Review Board. In addition, we hired an independent investigation firm, Inquisitor, Inc., to review all files for any reference to or suggestion of sexual abuse of minors. All of this was done with a view to publish a list of clergy names, living and deceased, who we believe could be credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors. Please see my [letter](#) and the Review Board [report](#).

The primary goals of releasing my letter and the report are healing for victim survivors and accountability and transparency for the Church. No individual should ever be subjected to abuse, particularly by someone who is responsible for nurturing that person's faith. We can only be healthy as a Church and as a society if we confront sexual abuse and rebuild relationships one at a time and if we use instances of profoundly disturbing and sinful actions

to strengthen our resolve to build safe environments for all.

I again urge anyone who has been abused by a representative of the Church in the Diocese of Memphis to call the police and contact the Tennessee Child Abuse Hotline at 1-877-237-0004 and our Director of Child and Youth Protection at (901) 359-2027.

I remain fraternally yours. In the light and love of the Lord,

+ David P. Talley

Most Reverend David P. Talley, M.S.W., J.C.D.