



Diocese of Monterey

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Yesterday the Church released the long-awaited report on Theodore McCarrick who was once a Cardinal in the Catholic Church. I am appreciative to our Holy Father Pope Francis and the Holy See for the release of the report which sheds light as to how Theodore McCarrick continued to rise in a position of authority in the hierarchy of the Church, while rumors of sexual impropriety and abuse were being circulated.

The emotions that people will experience while reading this entire report will vary from being shocked, angered and saddened. I invite us all to first and foremost, keep in our prayers all victims of sexual abuse and their families. It is my hope that the release of this report will be a positive step for our Church towards transparency and honesty about the evil of clergy sexual abuse.

Every bishop, priest, deacon, lay minister and parishioner in the church must remain vigilant and committed to work together to protect anyone from being hurt by any form of abuse in the Church. I am committed to our Safe Environment program here in the Diocese of Monterey, thus assisting all of us as baptized Christians to do all that we can to address this painful reality in our world.

In the midst of these difficult realities and the vigilance they require, let us implore the Holy Spirit for guidance and wisdom as we continue our work to protect all of God's people **and empower them for the very mission to which the Lord Jesus has called us with integrity to share the Gospel of joy with all.**

In Christ,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia
Bishop of Monterey