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Statement on Holy See's Report on Former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick

GAYLORD, MICHIGAN — Bishop Walter A. Hurley, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Gaylord, has released the following comment in response to the [Vatican's report](#) concerning former Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick. Having served as the Bishop of Metuchen, Archbishop of Newark, and Archbishop of Washington D.C., former Cardinal McCarrick has been the subject of an in-depth investigation by the Vatican following numerous allegations of sexual abuse and misconduct. The Vatican's report has been compiled over the last two years, with preparation for the report beginning in 2018. The report examines former cardinal McCarrick's public ministry and the Holy See's decision-making process in McCarrick's rise in the hierarchy after being accused of sexual abuse.

In response to the release of the Vatican's report, Bishop Hurley states,

“It is a tragedy that any such abuse should ever take place. The horror of abuse destroys the lives of victim-survivors and casts a dark shadow on the goodness and beauty of Christ's Church. Moreover, the thought that Church leaders may have added to such scandal, either through action or inaction, is unconscionable. There is no room for such appalling misconduct within the Body of Christ. I am deeply saddened by these events, but I am grateful for the honesty, transparency and accountability that is coming about in the Church. We must do everything that we can to bring about justice, as well as healing and hope.

“I am struck by the candor and openness of the report from the Holy See. The publication of this report demonstrates the commitment of our Holy Father and the Church to transparency in handling these matters; I welcome the truthfulness that this report provides. I am troubled that there has been a need for such an investigation, but I am encouraged by its completion. We as a Church can learn much from this report as we explore more fully its implications for the future and reflect on the errors of the past.

“As I review the findings within this report, I invite you to join me in prayer for all victim-survivors, whether minors or adults, of abuse. We will continue doing everything we can to protect the vulnerable and ensure that such tragic events never happen again.”

Anyone who has suffered abuse by a priest, bishop, or someone in the Church is urged to report this abuse to law enforcement and to Church authorities. Detailed information on how and where to report abuse can be found at <http://www.dioceseofgaylord.org/how-to-make-a-report-212/>.

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The Diocese of Gaylord was established by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on July 20, 1971. The territory encompasses 11,171 square miles and includes the 21 most northern counties of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The region is home to nearly 50,000 Catholics, served by 75 parishes, 17 Catholic schools and many closely-related institutions. For more information, visit www.dioceseofgaylord.org.

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