



**Office of the Bishop**

## *Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama*

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### **STATEMENT**

With the long-awaited “McCarrick Report” having been released today by the Holy See, we as the Catholic Church of Birmingham in Alabama renew our sorrow for all those who have been victims of sexual abuse, abuse of power, or other forms of abuse from the clergy. We also renew our commitment to responding swiftly and justly to all credible reports of abuse that we may receive. Because of his gravely evil actions, the former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick was rightly removed from the clerical state by Pope Francis. We pray that Mr. McCarrick does penance for the great damage he has caused and the untold scandal he has given. We join in praying for all others who were complicit or who, in any way, enabled him. May God heal all victims and give peace to all who have been scandalized.

While the sexual abuse of vulnerable persons is a scourge that afflicts every sector of society, and so must be vigorously fought against wherever it occurs, it is especially sinful when it is found among those who have been consecrated to God as ministers of His Church. It must never be tolerated again in any way, shape, or form. Today’s report is another sad chapter of this very difficult and complicated year. St. Paul’s encouraging words remind us: “Where sin abounds, grace abounds more” (Rom 5:20). As our Good Shepherd, Our Lord accompanies us through the dark valley and the shadows of this world, leading us to the verdant pastures of eternal life (Psalm 23). May this be a sober reminder that we be the people we say we are and re-commit ourselves daily to following Christ more faithfully.

To make a report of abuse in the Diocese of Birmingham, please contact Mr. Al Manzella, Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 205-597-9058.

Most Reverend Steven J. Raica  
Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama