



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Annalise Laumeyer, director of communications

Phone: 616-551-5629 | 616-307-3474 cell

Email: alaumeyer@grdiocese.org

The Diocese of Grand Rapids' Office of Communications issues the following statement from Bishop David J. Walkowiak in response to the investigative report into the actions of former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick.

Our Holy Father fulfills a request from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) by releasing the McCarrick report. The report reveals a serious moral failure within the Church by bishops and other Church leaders. No matter their title, perpetrators must be held accountable for any actions that cause harm to those most vulnerable in our communities. The fact that Theodore McCarrick's abusive behavior remained undisclosed and not acted upon for decades has done incalculable harm to people's lives and has undermined confidence in Church leadership even more.

While I have not yet been able to study the report in detail, I hope this report reveals why allegations against McCarrick were not disclosed when they were first brought to the attention of Church officials; why it took so long to address this situation; and who promoted the former cardinal and covered up for his misbehavior.

I am grateful to Pope Francis for ordering a thorough investigation of the McCarrick scandal and for issuing this final report so that the truth of the matter can be brought to light. As a bishop of the Catholic Church, I renew my profound apologies to all those who have suffered abuse in the Church. I renew my prayers and support for your recovery and healing. May the publication of this report confront the truth of what happened and bring some measure of peace to victim-survivors as well as show how to further the work of the Church in preventing any recurrences of this type in the future.

A detailed accounting of the [safe environment policies and procedures](#) enacted in 2002 in the Church as part of *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* may be found at grdiocese.org by clicking on 'Protecting Gods Children' in the main menu.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves more than 175,114 Catholics, 80 parishes and 31 schools in an 11-county area of West Michigan. For additional information visit our website grdiocese.org. Connect with the diocese on [Facebook](#) (Diocese of Grand Rapids), [Twitter](#) (@GRDiocese), and Instagram ([@GRDiocese](#)).

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