



## Bishop Michael Olson Statement on McCarrick Report

**November 10, 2020**

Today the Holy See released its Report on the Holy See’s Institutional Knowledge and Decision-Making Related to Former Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick (1930-2017). The Report is voluminous and will require time and diligent attention for a more detailed response to come later.

I would like to thank Pope Francis for responding to victims of McCarrick for permitting this report to be conducted and released. I am grateful for the oversight of the Holy Father for offering the due and canonical process accorded to McCarrick for his ultimate removal from the priesthood.

Two significant measures have been enacted to address abuse and coverup by bishops.

*Vos estis lux mundi* (‘You are the light of the world’) which was promulgated by Pope Francis in May 2019 establishes new procedural norms to combat sexual abuse and to ensure that bishops and religious superiors are held accountable for their actions.

The USCCB adopted the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting (CBAR) service which provides a third-party service for gathering and relaying to appropriate Church authorities reports of misconduct and coverup by U.S. bishops.

As the Summary of the Report states: “For the Catholic Church, in the United States and in Rome, the case of Theodore McCarrick – a prelate possessing considerable intelligence and preparation, capable of weaving together many relationships both in the political as well as in the inter-religious level – remains an open wound, first and foremost for the pain and suffering caused to his victims. This wound cannot be treated solely with new laws or ever more effective codes of conduct, because the crime is also a sin. To heal this wound, humility and penitence is needed, asking God’s forgiveness and healing.”

The McCarrick case cannot simply be an occasion for remorse for past institutional and personal transgressions against the vulnerable by McCarrick and his enablers. Remorse is directed to the self. Rather, this is an occasion for humble contrition, repentance, conversion and a change in actions to become centered upon Christ and His call to priests and bishops to follow His example as the Good Shepherd.