



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH  
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



Statement by Fort Worth Catholic Bishop Michael F. Olson on  
Release of Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report Regarding Sexual Abuse Claims

August 14, 2018

As I previously stated with regard to former Cardinal McCarrick and I reiterate, ministry in the Church is a grace from God that carries with it sober responsibility. Ministry is not a right to be claimed by anyone as an entitlement; rather, it involves a covenantal trust established through our Baptism as members of the Church established by Christ.

We see in the immoral crimes and sins alleged to have been committed by those named in the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report and recent reports regarding now former Cardinal McCarrick the violation of that trust and the grave damage caused to the lives and health of their purported victims.

The Church must take immediate actions to remove the immoral offenders, offer all assistance needed to those who have been abused and to report and work with civil authorities to bring to justice the offenders. We must offer our solemn and humble prayers for the victims' healing.

Justice also requires that all of those in Church leadership who knew of the alleged crimes and sexual misconduct and did nothing be held accountable, morally and legally, for their refusal to act thereby enabling children and vulnerable people to be hurt.

Pledges of penitential prayers and actions on the part of Church leadership are meaningless unless first preceded by contrition, confession, firm purpose of amendment, and concrete actions of conversion.

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