



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH  
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



Bishop Michael F. Olson Statement on USCCB's Effort  
to Address Sexual Abuse by Clergy

August 16, 2018

These past few weeks, we have all read and heard the tragic reports of sex abuse in the Catholic Church. Additional horrific news has come to light this week via a Grand Jury Report out of Pennsylvania. We must continue to pray for the victims of these atrocities and resolve—with actions, not merely words—to once and for all see to it that these crimes against the vulnerable stop.

Today, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo issued a statement regarding the decision of the USCCB's executive committee for our entire conference of bishops to address the Holy See about changes to implement to make it easier to report such crimes and hopefully to eliminate them from happening in the first instance. Cardinal DiNardo's statement is a welcome start towards addressing the issue of sex abuse by deacons, priests and bishops. I support the Cardinal's leadership in his office as the President of the USCCB as we take steps towards swift, just and decisive action in support of the Holy See in the removal of the immoral offenders, the offering of assistance needed to those who have been abused, and to report and work openly with civil authorities to bring to justice all offenders.

As a member of the USCCB, I am especially hopeful that we will implement decisive means, in cooperation with the Holy See, to address openly the perpetrators and also those bishops and other parties responsible for covering up these grave and predatory crimes of deacons, priests and bishops.

I look forward to the November meeting of my brother bishops at which we can move towards decisive action with the Holy See in addressing honestly the requirement that the reporting of sexual abuse can be made without fear of retribution, regardless of the status of the alleged abuser and that any one enabling clergy abuse might be held appropriately accountable.

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