

# **Bishop Monforton's Reaction to the McCarrick Report**

First of all, I apologize to all abuse victims and their families. By the time of this reading, we will have received the McCarrick Investigation Report and its devastating details. We must review this report with great sorrow recognizing that McCarrick's victims, as well as all victims of sexual abuse, deserve our prayers, attention and care. The tragic details indicate leadership failed to follow-up on abuse survivors' claims.

This investigation chronicles transgressions against the two greatest commandments Jesus shared in the *Gospel according to Luke* (see, Luke, Chapter 10, Verse 27). This is a further call to accountability and transparency. Jesus Christ made the Catholic Church necessary for the salvation of the human race and the results chronicled in this investigation go completely against the grain of our service to God and neighbor.

Our focus must remain on the victims and to prevent a culture like this from happening again. To love God and neighbor means to put our brothers and sisters first who have been abused by members of the church, including her clergy. To love God and neighbor is to pursue healing of our brothers and sisters. To love God and neighbor requires a conversion of heart, and in this case to strengthen our fortitude and deepen our resolve to protect all minors and vulnerable adults.

Together, let us proceed to share Jesus Christ with all whom we encounter, with our eyes fixed on the reality that in the holy name of Jesus there always is hope. We can be instruments of his peace.