



DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

November 6, 2020

**To: All Priests and Deacons Serving in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, Operations Team,
Pastorate Consultants**

From: Bishop Doherty via the Office of Communications

Subject: Pending McCarrick Report

**Bishop Doherty statement on the Vatican “McCarrick Report” to be released at 8:00 AM EST on
Tuesday, November 10, 2020.**

The question of “when” has been asked by bishops and our people for over a year. I have not seen it, nor any summary of its contents as of November 6. No doubt it will be a black eye for the Church, but it is better to know what went wrong. Sin abhors daylight and healing requires light. Theodore McCarrick was dismissed from the clerical state (defrocked) on February 13, 2019. Those who were victimized by McCarrick may receive some consolation as wrongs done to them are acknowledged. Any who may have warned against McCarrick’s advancement will be vindicated.

I will have more to say about the matter after I read the Vatican report. Media sources say that it is quite lengthy. It is part of my role to read what it will contain, but my ongoing disgust with the McCarrick affair means that I am not looking forward to it. It is difficult to overstate the pain and distress that our priests experience from the shock waves radiating from everything relating to McCarrick’s immoral actions. They need our prayerful support.

It is important for you to know that I had no prior knowledge of McCarrick’s reputation for illicit behavior when it came to his abuses of power or his sexual misdeeds.

As I related a year ago at this time, “When news of McCarrick’s evil actions came to light in June of 2018, many Catholics’ first concern was for the integrity of our seminaries. Seminary administrators immediately set to work examining their institutions and re-stating processes to ensure the safety of seminarians. Seminarians and their families deserved and received communications about behavioral expectations and any violations of them. This appeared to be underreported only because there were so many events competing for headlines for the rest of that summer and fall.

“Predating the McCarrick revelations, all diocesan clergy and employees, and all volunteers who have contact with minors, sign a code of conduct as part of their required Safe and Sacred Training.”



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In addition, by the Fall of 2019, all of our active priests and deacons, me included, signed our Code of Conduct for Clergy of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.

Pointing out all the holy good ministries of the Church at this time might, to some, appear self-serving. But we are well reminded that sin has marred our mission through time, as early as Judas's betrayal and Peter's denial. Even so, grace, holiness and nobility have always shown brightly. These require continual recommitment on our part, and I certainly encourage our personal adherence to these things in our present moment.

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