



The Roman Catholic
Diocese of Phoenix

400 EAST MONROE, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004-2336 TELEPHONE (602) 257-0030

August 17, 2018

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We write you this day to express our own deep level of sadness and anger about the recent revelations surrounding Archbishop Theodore McCarrick and the newly released Pennsylvania Grand Jury report. These shameful and evil actions have harmed many innocent people, especially the young; and they are utterly inexcusable. This has also caused great pain, confusion and dismay among us all — laity, religious and clergy — who remain committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are sorry that you have had to endure this anguish.

We support the recent announcement by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, of a new plan that will involve laity, experts, and the Vatican to provide the strongest protection possible against predators in the Church and anyone who would conceal them. We welcome these efforts and renew our own commitments to do all we can to protect young people and others who are vulnerable, and to bring healing to those who have been abused.

The three goals of this new effort are as follows: an investigation into the questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick; an opening of new and confidential channels for reporting complaints against bishops; and advocacy for more effective resolution of future complaints. These goals will be pursued according to three criteria: proper independence, sufficient authority, and substantial leadership by laity. Our office of Child and Youth Protection continues to provide assistance to victims and ongoing safe environment training to our schools and parishes in the Diocese of Phoenix.

During this dark and painful time, there is also a strong need to look to the light and healing of Jesus. Since our Lord told us that some evils can only be driven out by prayer and fasting, we invite you, as your shepherds, to join us in prayer, fasting and sacrifice for the purification of our Church. In particular, we ask that all priests, deacons, men and women in consecrated life and the lay faithful join together in fasting and prayer on August 22, the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and August 29, the Passion of St. John the Baptist. May Our Lady's motherly care and powerful intercession bring the light of her Son to our hurting Church.

United in Christ, we are sincerely yours,

+Thomas J. Olmsted
Bishop of Phoenix

+Eduardo A. Nevares
Auxiliary Bishop of Phoenix