



MEMORANDUM

TO: THE DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

FROM: BISHOP MYRON J. COTTA

DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2020

RE: MCCARRICK REPORT

Brothers and Sisters,

The Vatican today released its report following an investigation into allegations of sexual abuse by former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. Former Cardinal McCarrick was removed from his post and laicized in 2019. The Vatican's report once more draws attention to insidious actions committed by those in positions of trust. It is heartbreaking to read of the pain inflicted by this betrayal.

However repulsive we find these sins, we must confront the past honestly if we are to change the future. Today's report from the Holy See must be a call to us to continue our work to repent for these sins and ensure they are never again inflicted on the People of God.

The report underscores the fact that grave sin of clergy sexual abuse involves more than priests. Bishops and others who were charged with holding priests accountable, and with setting an example, committed the same grave sins. And, in far too many cases, these leaders compounded the pain inflicted on victim-survivors by failing to take decisive and meaningful action.

Our work to atone for these sins must continue as long as we are a Church. As leaders of the Church, we must commit ourselves to continually examine and improve the safeguards we have in place to protect the young and vulnerable, and to strive to be worthy of the trust placed in us.

I ask all of you to join me in praying for the healing of our Brothers and Sisters, the victim-survivors of clergy sexual abuse.

[Diocese of Stockton's Victim Assistance Ministry](#)

reportbishopabuse.org

In the Peace of Christ,

Bishop Myron J. Cotta