

## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

August 2018

Office of the Bishop  
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My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am deeply disturbed by the recent allegations brought forth against ex-Cardinal McCarrick, and the information released last week by the Pennsylvania Attorney General, following a Grand Jury investigation, that determined that over many decades some 300 diocesan and religious order priests in the Catholic dioceses of Pennsylvania abused 1,000 young persons.

I feel great sorrow for the pain and anguish suffered by the victims of this abuse. We had all hoped that these tragic events were becoming part of our past, that those suffering could find healing and grace, that those responsible would be held accountable for their despicable acts, and the confidence of our faithful in their Church and its clergy could begin to be restored. While it is a disheartening fact that this tragedy is not behind us, we must also note that since the adoption of the “Dallas Charter” by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in 2002, significant reforms have been implemented. These recent challenges serve as an important reminder that we must stay mindful and vigilant to eradicate permanently these tragic and painful events from our Church.

I want to assure every member of our Diocese that during my tenure as your bishop that I have maintained a full commitment to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” – with zero tolerance for any form of abuse. We will continue to report immediately to law enforcement and children service agencies when made aware of any abuse, either now or anytime in the past. We will continue to labor diligently to seek out only those men who are worthy of your confidence and trust to serve in our parishes as future good and faithful priests and deacons. And we will continue to be as proactive as possible in ensuring that all who come in contact with young people within our community are in compliance with our “Protecting God’s Children” program to ensure that we maintain a safe and protective atmosphere for our youth.

We encourage anyone who is a victim or aware of any form of abuse to contact local law enforcement immediately and contact the Diocesan Victims’ Assistance Coordinator at 1-866-448-0217 or [helpisavailable@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:helpisavailable@columbuscatholic.org).

In light of these developments, I also wish to share with you a web link to the recent statement by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, USCCB president, (<http://www.usccb.org/news/2018/18-139.cfm>). Cardinal Dinardo has announced an initial framework to provide reporting and investigative processes for claims against U.S. bishops. This is an important and necessary step to ensure accountability for the leaders of our Church, whom we all rely on for spiritual direction and Church governance.

I encourage all to join me in offering prayers of healing for all of those who have been the victims of abuse, and pray that children and young people within our Church, through our faith, leadership and diligence, will be spared and protected from such abuse in the future. I also ask you remember our faithful priests, those dedicated men who serve our Church, our parishes, and ministries, and continue to offer them your prayers and support.



Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell  
Bishop of Columbus