

CATHOLIC BAR ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT REGARDING ARCHBISHOP McCARRICK AND THE PENNSYLVANIA GRAND JURY REPORT

September 10, 2018

The Catholic Bar Association is a community of legal professionals that educates, organizes and inspires its members to faithfully uphold and bear witness to the Catholic Faith in the study and practice of the law. The purposes of the organization include assisting the Church in the work of communicating Catholic principles to the legal profession and society at large. It is the only organization representing Catholic lawyers on a nationwide basis.

As Catholic lawyers, we feel compelled to address the conduct described in recent press coverage regarding Archbishop Theodore McCarrick and the report of the Pennsylvania grand jury, appropriately described as a “moral catastrophe” by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The reported conduct is utterly incompatible with the Catholic faith.

As ***Catholics***, we believe that we have an obligation to engage in prayer and penance, make reparations for past sexual abuse and misconduct, express solidarity with victims of such abuse and misconduct, and use our best efforts to prevent such abuse and misconduct from happening in the future.

As ***lawyers***, we believe that the criminal, civil and ecclesiastical justice systems should be fully engaged to punish the guilty and compensate the injured, while protecting the rights of the accused.

Cognizant of the justifiable skepticism, by clerics and laity alike, of the hierarchy’s ability meet the demands of the moment, we join the many other voices urging the bishops to commit to a timely, independent, open investigation into recent events, led by the laity and including experts in civil law, canon law, and victim’s rights.