

November 13, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the midst of new local warnings about the pandemic this week, the Vatican also released its long-awaited report on its investigation of the former Cardinal and Archbishop of Washington, now Mr. Theodore McCarrick. The report is about 450 pages long and very detailed.

Sadly, this report brings us to another chapter of painful awareness of our Church's past failures. Like you, I find the report scandalous, demoralizing and simply shameful. I believe, however, it also marks a new era of transparency in our Church which many, including the lay faithful, have demanded.

Pope Francis personally called for the investigation into the systematic failures that allowed Mr. McCarrick to rise through the ranks of the Church's hierarchy. He also promised that the results of the investigation be known. Not only are we reminded of the shocking misconduct of Mr. McCarrick, but we must also examine the profound failings that led to Mr. McCarrick's rise along the way. It is truly difficult to fathom. My prayers continue for every victim of Mr. McCarrick and their families.

During these unprecedented times in our country and in our world, I sincerely hurt for you to think that our Church could be another source of further pain and disillusionment for our own family members here at JGS. I pray that your relationship with our savior, Jesus Christ, Who will never fail us, His presence within each of us through our baptism, His presence in our community here at Jesus the Good Shepherd, His presence in the Sacraments and His presence in our loving service to the needs of others, will bring you the comfort, peace and grace you need that only Christ can so perfectly provide.

May all of us at this time take extra comfort in the words of St. Paul: *"What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"* [Romans 8:35-39].

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Mike

Rev. Michael J. King
Pastor