



Bishop of Gary

DIOCESE OF GARY

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STATEMENT OF BISHOP DONALD J. HYING

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As you may have read, Archbishop Carlo Vigano, the former papal nuncio to the United States, has recently asserted that Pope Francis knew the background of former-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, i.e. that he was a sexual predator and that Francis lifted the restrictions that Pope Benedict had imposed on McCarrick, relying on him as an advisor and as an envoy to foreign countries for special missions. These are grave charges. Clearly, these assertions must be investigated and shown either true or false.

As we continue to struggle with the repercussions of the sexual abuse crisis in the Church, I urge all of us to not lose hope. Through all of the storms of life, we keep our hearts fixed on Jesus Christ, his mission, his love for us, our call to go forth as disciples in his name. Those who have committed crimes of abuse and those who facilitated such crimes must be held accountable. This is an absolute necessity if the Church is going to regain trust and move forward in the mission of Christ. We also need to remember that the Church is far bigger than the perpetrators. Our sacramental and spiritual life, our parishes, schools and hospitals, our organizations and agencies of charity and service continue to go forth each day, striving to live the fundamental mission of the Gospel. As I have said before, if you are thinking of giving up on the Church, remember that the Church is us. Speak to your pastor or another parish leader, reach out to me, if you are struggling.

Yesterday, we posted a list of priests who served in the Diocese who have been found guilty of credible accusations of the abuse of minors. We list their names, the number of accusations and subsequent action taken. The efforts of our Safe Environment Office, review board and parish and school leaders ensure that we continue to do all we can to protect our children. Thank you for all you do to serve the Lord Jesus and his Church.

+D J. Hying