

## **Bishop Jeffrey M. Monforton's Statement Regarding the Theodore McCarrick Decision by the Holy See**

The recent decision by the Holy See concerning Theodore McCarrick is further evidence that sexual abuse can never be tolerated, whether or not the victim is a child or an adult. In the words of Cardinal DiNardo, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, no one is above the law and all perpetrators should be held accountable, regardless their status in the Church.

It is my hope this ruling will provide at least some healing to McCarrick's victims but also to all who have been sexually victimized by Church officials or by those engaged in Church activity. The victims deserve our swift response in their time of need and, always, our compassion and prayers.

If you or someone you know has suffered sexual abuse by someone within the Catholic Church, please contact local law enforcement and the diocesan offices.