



DIOCESE OF BEAUMONT

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Bishop David Toups' Statement on the "McCarrick Report"

Realizing that the Vatican would be publishing the "McCarrick report" at some point during my first months as our bishop, and in view of our published list of clergy with credible allegations on January 31, 2019 ([link](#)), I want to assure the faithful of our commitment to transparency as a diocese.

As our new bishop, I wanted to fully understand the content and history of our diocesan files, and so we contracted with an outside consulting group, Kinsale Management Consulting, made up primarily of former FBI investigators, for an external audit of our personnel files. From October 26-29, 2020, an on-site team of four objective investigators had full-access to our clergy files and reviewed all of our active priests and deacons in ministry. I am very grateful to say that there were no irregularities or credible allegations of clergy sexual abuse of minors made against anyone serving in public ministry in the Diocese of Beaumont. This is certainly a credit to Bishop Guillory and the administration of our diocese in consistently being proactive in protecting our most vulnerable from any harm or cover-up by the Church. This is a new day, a day of transparency for us as a diocese and for the Universal Church, to ensure that we can be the light of Christ in Southeast Texas and throughout the world.

At the same time, we must consistently be vigilant in our transparency and continue to offer healing to those who have been hurt in such egregious ways by those they should have been able to trust.

In light of the McCarrick report, and in order to protect our seminarians from any abuse of power as described therein, I have been part of a study group convoked by the University of Notre Dame's McGrath Institute for Church Life, which just yesterday (11/10/20) published five concrete benchmarks ([link](#)) that every seminary should implement in order to prevent any future injuries or abuse of authority as described in the report.

We also continue to complete regular criminal background screenings of all employees (including clergy, seminarians, and deacon candidates) and those volunteers who work with children and youth, and these same individuals are required to receive safe environment training, which is updated regularly. In addition, students in our Catholic schools and parish religious education programs receive that same safe environment training each year. Along with all dioceses in the United States, we are audited every year on our compliance with the U.S. Bishops' "[Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth](#)" (published 2002). Since 2003, the auditors have annually determined that our diocese is "in compliance" with the Charter.

We can never make right the crimes that have hurt so many, but we can and must remain vigilant in the prevention of such abuses and remain committed to the healing process. I ask you to join me in praying for that healing. We want better, we need better, we deserve better from our Church. As your bishop, I will always strive to serve Jesus and His Church with transparency, compassion, and love for all.